NACHRICHTEN

DER

ÖSTERREICHISCHEN
MATHEMATISCHEN GESELLSCHAFT

*

INTERNATIONALE
MATHEMATISCHE NACHRICHTEN

INTERNATIONAL
MATHEMATICAL NEWS

NOUVELLES MATHÉMATIQUES
INTERNATIONALES

NR. 19/20   JUNI 1952

WIEN

die sich auf drei Fachgruppen (Mechanik fester Körper, Strömungsmechanik, angewandte Mathematik) aufteilten. Aus Österreich nahmen die Herren Baule, Heinrich, Slibar, Torre und Tschech teil. — Von den gesellschaftlichen Veranstaltungen sind der Empfang durch die Stadt Braunschweig und die von hohem künstlerischem Niveau zeugende Stadttheater-Aufführung des Shakespeareschen Lustspiels „Zwei Herzen aus Verona" hervorzuheben.

Die Stadt B r a u n s c h w e i g selbst hat durch Kriegseinwirkung leider sehr gelitten, doch ist der Eindruck der zahlreichen romanisch-gotischen Kirchen und der alten Fachwerksbauten trotz aller Zerstörungen noch immer gewaltig. Der enorme Aufbauwille der Bevölkerung drängt sich dem Besucher überall auf, doch fehlt es im Lande Niedersachsen, wie anderswo, an Geld. Die Technische Hochschule, die älteste auf deutschem Boden, hat starke Kriegsschäden erlitten und befindet sich noch mitten im Wiederaufbau. Das bereits völlig fertige Studentenhaus kann als wahres Schmuckkästchen bezeichnet werden.

Auf der ordentlichen Hauptversammlung der GaMM wurde als Tagungsort für das nächste Jahr die Stadt A a c h e n in Aussicht genommen. *G. Heinrich.*

INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION

Official Record of the First General Assembly held on 6—8 March in Rome in the Palazzo Farnesina by invitation of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei.

Present:

A. D e l e g a t e s. AUSTRALIA: *C. A. Hurst.* AUSTRIA: *R. Inzinger — W. Gröbner* (alternate). BELGIUM: *L. Godeaux, F. Bureau, F. Simonart.* DENMARK: *N. E. Nørlund, B. Jessen.* FINLAND: *J. Nielsen.* FRANCE: *A. Denjoy, H. Cartan, M. Brelot, J. Pérès.* GERMANY: *E. Kamke, K. Knopp, H. L. Schmid, K. Strubecker.* GREECE: *Ph. Vassiliou — C. Papaioannou* (alternate). GREAT BRITAIN: *W. V. D. Hodge, G. Temple.* ITALY: *E. Bompiani, G. Sansone, A. Terracini, B. Segre — A. Signorini, F. Conforto, C. Miranda, A. Tonolo* (alternates). JAPAN: *K. Kunugi.* NETHERLANDS: *H. D. Kloosterman, J. F. Koksma.* NORWAY: *Th. Skolem.* PERU: *M. Picone.* SWITZERLAND: *F. Fiala, A. Pfluger.* U. S. A.: *M. H. Stone, J. R. Kline, J. T. Whyburn, E. Hille, S. MacLane —* In addition, after minute (6): SPAIN: *T. R. Bachiller.* YUGOSLAVIA: *D. Kurepa.*

B. O b s e r v e r s. POLAND: *K. Kuratowski, S. Turski* (Panstw. Inst. Matem.). PORTUGAL: *J. S. e Silva* (Junta Invest. Matem.).

C. O t h e r participants. UNESCO: *R. Berker* (Dept. Nat. Sci.). ICSU: *R. Fraser* (Liaison Office).

(1) In the absence of Sen. Prof. *G. Castelnuovo*, President of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, on account of illness, a message of welcome from him was read by Prof. *Bompiani*. On behalf of the Assembly Prof. *Denjoy* expressed the thanks of the Assembly and its good wishes for Prof. *Castelnuovo's* recovery.

(2) The following served as chairmen of the Assembly during the various sessions: Prof. *Denjoy, Knopp, Nielsen, MacLane, Signorini, Pfluger, Temple.* Following the election of Prof. *Stone* as President of the Union he took the chair.

(3) The report of the Interim Committee appointed by the convention held in New York on 27—29 August 1950, at which Statutes and By-Laws of the Union were adopted, was read by its Secretary, Prof. *Jessen.*

The Interim Committee had sent out invitations to adhere to the Union in February 1951 accompanied by the English text of the Statutes and By-Laws and of the Enabling Resolution adopted in New York, with a French translation. In accordance with the Enabling Resolution the Union was declared to be in existence in September 1951, when 10 countries had adhered. At the date of the report the following 18 countries had adhered in the groups indicated and through the organizations named:

G r o u p   I: AUSTRALIA   (Australian National Research Council), AUSTRIA (Österreichische Mathematische Gesellschaft), CUBA (Sociedad Cubana de Ciencias Físicas y Matemáticas), FINLAND (Suomalainen Tiede-akatemia, Academia Scientiarum Fennica), GREECE (Académie d'Athènes), NORWAY (Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi i Oslo), PERU (Academia Nacional de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales de Lima).

G r o u p   II: CANADA (Canadian Mathematical Congress, Société Mathé-matique du Canada), DENMARK (Kongelige Danske Videnskabernes Selskab), NETHERLANDS (Wiskundig Genootschap voor Nederland), SWITZERLAND (Société Mathématique Suisse, Schweizerische Mathematische Gesellschaft).

G r o u p III: BELGIUM (Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Koninklijke Akademie voor Wetenschappen, Letteren en Schone Kunsten van België).

G r o u p IV: FRANCE (Académie des Sciences de Paris, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, Société Mathématique de France), GERMANY (Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung), ITALY (Unione Matematica Italiana), JAPAN (Science Council of Japan).

G r o u p V: GREAT BRITAIN (The Royal Society, London), U. S. A. (National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council).

Further applications for adherence would be laid before the Assembly [cf. minute (6)].

The expenses of the Interim Committee had been met from the remainder of the UNESCO grant of $ 10.000.— for the New York meeting, and by a grant to its secretary from Rask-Ørsted Fondet (Danmarks internationale videnskabelige Fond). — The Union had been fortunate enough to receive from UNESCO a grant of $ 3000.— for travel and subsistence expenses of participants in the Assembly. — In response to an invitation from UNESCO to the Interim Committee, Prof. Brelot had attended conferences for the creation of an International Computation Centre (cf. minute [4]).

(4) Prof. *Brelot* reported on the decisions taken on the creation of an International Computation Centre.

(5) It was agreed that the procedure at meetings of the General Assembly should be based on UNESCO's rules.

(6) The following countries were admitted as members of the Union in the groups indicated and through the organizations named:

G r o u p I: ARGENTINA (Union Matematica Argentina).

G r o u p II: PAKISTAN (Physico-Mathematical Society of Pakistan), SPAIN (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Cientificas, Sociedad Matematica Espanola), YUGOSLAVIA (Akademski Savet F. N. R. Jugoslavije).

(7) It was agreed that the Union should apply for membership of ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions).

(8) A committee, consisting of Prof. *Berker, Brelot, Inzinger,* and *Stone,* was appointed to study the possibility of creating a directory or index of mathematicians, maintaining it and coordinating the work upon it with the dissemination of current mathematical news. The committee should examine the matter and report its recommendation to the Executive Committee for action. The following topics

should be given particular attention in the report: The possible sources of funds for the initial publication and for its continuation; the form of the index, with special reference to the criteria for the inclusion of names, the data to be included, the variety of listings, and the possibility of listing mathematical organizations as well as individuals; an estimate of the size and publishing cost; the means of collecting material for the directory; a survey of the marketing problems involved; a survey of the cost of supplements and revised editions; a consolidated budget.

(9) It was agreed that the Executive Committee should negotiate with the Österreichische Mathematische Gesellschaft a contract for the publication of an international mathematical news' bulletin continuing in a way suitable to the needs of the Union the work already undertaken by the ÖMG. The Executive Committee was instructed in particular to discuss the following points: The organization of the editorial board and of the staff of correspondents; the title, contents, form, and frequency of appearance of the bulletin; the basis for establishing a distribution list; the subscription-price (if any charge is to be made); the budget for the publication.

The Executive Committee might entrust the conduct of negotiations to a sub-committee. In the event that a suitable contract cannot be negotiated, the Executive Committee should consider further the means available for disseminating news and information concerning the activities of the Union.

(10) A committee, consisting of Prof. *Hodge, MacLane, Pérès,* and *Schmid,* was appointed to report to the General Assembly at its next ordinary meeting on methods of facilitating and making cheaper the dissemination of mathematical knowledge through various forms of publication.

(11) A committee, consisting of Prof. *Châtelet, Davenport, Jessen, Kunugi,* and the Secretary of the Union ex officio, was appointed to study all methods of facilitating the exchange of mathematicians, both professors and students, between nations, and to report on its work from time to time, as it deems appropriate, and in any event a the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

(12) A committee, consisting of Prof. *Hille, Hodge, Pérès,* and *Schmid,* was appointed to study, in consultation with Prof. *Berker* and *Kuratowski,* the various aspects of the problem of abstracting and reviewing mathematical papers by consulting with the various organizations now engaged in this work, and in particular by seeking methods of promoting further cooperation between these organizations. The committee should report to the General Assembly at its next ordinary meeting.

(13) A committee, consisting of Prof. *Cartan, Sansone, Schmid,* and *Temple,* was formed to consider the possibility of preparing a directory of mathematical symbols with definitions in five languages (English, French, German, Italian, and Russian), and to report to the Executive Committee or to the General Assembly.

(14) The Interim Committee presented a letter from Prof. *H. Fehr,* General Secretary of the Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique, suggesting that the work of this Commission should be continued by the Union and offering the resignation of the present commission. The Assembly agreed that the commission should be attached to the Union and accepted the resignation of its present members expressing hearty thanks for the important work that the commission has accomplished. Prof. *Behnke, Châtelet, Jeffery,* and *Kurepa,* were appointed members of the Commission. The Assembly accepted with thanks an offer from Prof. *Fehr* to place himself at the new commission.[*]

(15) The relation of the Union to the International Congress of Mathematicians was discussed. It was agreed that the Union should assist the organizers of the 1954 Congress in all possible ways.

[*] possible transcription error by the printer in difference to the record sent to the Adhering Organizations ("...offer from Prof. Fehr to place himself at the disposal of the new commission.")remark by IMU Archivist 2024.

(16) It was agreed that the postal ballot is to be used by the Executive Committee only in exceptional circumstances or on questions of the admission of new members of the Union; furthermore a minimum period of four months is to be allowed for the return of voting papers, it being understood that air mail will be used when the four months period is used.

(17) The following changes of Statutes and By-Laws were unanimously adopted:

(a) Deletion of the present Statute 7.

(b) Addition of a new Statute (new number 13) between the present Statutes 13 and 14 as follows: In order further to provide for the growth of the Union, the Executive Committee shall have the power at any time prior to the second ordinary meeting of the General Assembly by a twothirds majority vote to increase its membership from seven to nine by a simultaneous addition of a Third Vice-President and a fourth elected member, provided that the Committee shall immediately thereafter initiate an election by postal ballot to fill the offices thus created and provided also that the duties and terms of the members so elected shall conform to the provisions, both general and special, applicable to the holders of the comparable offices described in Articles 11 and 12. It is understood that if the Executive Committee should exercise the power hereby conferred upon it and the number of offices should in consequence be increased, elections to the additional offices shall be made as provided in Articles 11 and 12 from the time of the second ordinary meeting of the General Assembly.

(c) Addition of a new Statute (new number 17) between the present Statutes 16 and 17 as follows: The Union may accept gifts, legacies and subventions, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee, and shall maintain a roll of benefactore on which shall be inscribed annually the names of those individuals or institutions that have contributed.

(d) Replacement of the present Statute 24 (new number 25) of the word „three" by „four".

(e) Replacement of the present Statute 26 by the following (new number 27): The English and French texts of the Statutes shall be considered as equally authoritative.

(f) Deletion of the present By-Law 5 (b).

(g) Replacement of the present By-Law 14 by the following: The English and French texts of the By-Laws shall be considered as equally authoritative.

(18) The Assembly decided that the French text of the Statutes and By-Laws should be made, in so far as possible, an exact translation of the original English text.

(19) The Executive Committee was elected as follows:

President: Prof. *E. M. H. Stone*. First Vice-President: Prof. *É. Borel*. Second Vice-President: Prof. *E. Kamke*. Secretary: Prof. *E. Bompiani*. Other Members: Prof. *W. V. D. Hodge, S. Iyanaga, B. Jessen*.

It was agreed that, as an amendment of the provisions in Statutes 12 and 13 (new numbers 11 and 12), the committee should hold office until 1 January 1955.

(20) The President, or in his absence the Secretary, and Prof. *Borel* were elected members of the Executive Committee of the ICSU, the election to become effective if and when the Union is recognized as an adherent of the Council.

(21) It was agreed that the unit contribution for the period until the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly should be 200 gold francs, and that the subscriptions for 1952 should be due and payable on 1 June 1952.

(22) Prof. *Kline* presented the following budget estimates for each of the years 1952, 1953, 1954, which were approved:

I n c o m e : 61 unit contributions (approx.) $ 3695.—.

E x p e n d i t u r e : Secreterial help $ 1500.—, Office expenses $ 500.—, Travelling expenses of the Executive Committee $ 750.—, Emergency and reserve $ 1215.—. Total $ 3965.—.

It was agreed that the following items should be treated as special projects under Statute 19 (new number 20): Directory of mathematicians [cf. minute (8)]; News bulletin [cf. minute (9)]; Exchange of mathematicians [cf. minute (11)]; Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique [cf. minute (14); International Congress of Mathematicians [cf. minute (15)]. It was further agreed that the help of UNESCO and ICSU should be sought for these purposes.

(23) The following resolution, proposed by Prof. *Hille* and seconded by Prof. *Cartan,* was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the first General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union has been royally received and entertained during its meeting in Rome 6—8 March 1952, be it hereby resolved, that the General Assembly of the Union expresses its most heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the reception and welcome which have been so fully enjoyed by the delegates to the Assembly, and conveys these thanks to the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, to the Unione Matematica Italiana, and in particular to Prof. *E. Bompiani*. Furthermore the General Assembly offers to Sen. Prof. *G. Castelnuovo* its sincere hopes for his rapid and complete recovery.

(24) It was agreed to hold the next ordinary meeting of the General Assembly at the time and place of the 1954 International Congress of Mathematicians.

B. Jessen.

(Anmerkung der Redaktion der „Nachrichten": Zwecks Platzersparnis wurden einige Abschnitte in einer gegenüber dem Original gedrängteren Anordnung wiedergegeben.)

GUIDO CASTELNUOVO

Il 27 Aprile 1952, dopo alcuni mesi di malattia e fra l'universale rimpianto, si è spento in Roma Guido C a s t e l n u o v o. Con lui scompare una delle personalità più eminenti della nostra epoca.

Egli nacque a Venezia il 14 agosto 1865, figlio dello scrittore Enrico Castelnuovo e nipote dello statista Luigi L u z z a t t i ; si laureò a Padova col V e r o - n e s e nel 1886, e fu quindi assistente del D' O v i d i o a Torino, ove visse dal 1887 al 1891, stringendo affettuosi e fruttiferi rapporti con Corrado S e g r e. Appena ventiseienne, ottenne la cattedra di geometria a Roma, che poi tenne ininterrottamente fino al 1935; in tale anno fu collocato a riposo per raggiunti limiti di età, egli furono tributate solenni onoranze. Nonostante l'età avanzata, durante il periodo dell'occupazione tedesca di Roma dovette lasciare la propria abitazione e nascondersi sotto falso nome presso amici, ed ebbe ancora in seguito varie cariche importanti. Fu Commissario generale del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Presidente della Delegazione Italiana all'UNESCO e della Società Europea di Cultura, Senatore a vita, Socio di molte Accademie italiane e straniere. Dal 1946 era Presidente dell'Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, ed impiegò il proprio ascendente e le proprie energie per ridare a questa l'antico splendore.

La lunga vita pubblica del C. può dividersi in quattro tempi. Nel primo tempo, che va dal 1885 fin verso il 1893, egli contribuì potentemente (assieme a C. S e g r e e B e r t i n i) a rielaborare ed ampliare in modo notevole — mediante l'uso della geometria iperspaziale e numerativa — la così detta geometria sulle curve algebriche: ramo oggidì perfetto di geometria, le cui origini risalgono a R i e m a n n e di cui, fin dal 1873, B r i l l e N o e t h e r avevano gettate le basi. Appartengono a detto periodo lo studio approfondito della somma minima di due o più serie lineari sovrapposte, la determinazione delle curve iperspaziali di dato