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The Most Humanistic Mathematician: Florentin Smarandache

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Florentin Smarandache was introduced to members of the Humanistic Mathematics Network, when two of his poems were published in Issue #7 of this Journal (April 1992).

Recently Smarandache was featured in an article entitled "The Most Paradoxist Mathematician and Philosopher of the World." Written by Charles T. Le, it appeared in the *Bulletin of Number Theory*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (March 1995), Number Theory Association, Tucson. The abstract for the article introduces this humanistic mathematician as follows:

Florentin Smarandache, a Romanian mathematician and poet, exiled in the United States, used his talents in wrong directions: poetical skills in mathematics and mathematical skills in poetry! He

published in mathematics a collection of "Only Problems, Not Solutions!" A function in number theory related to an infinity of unsolved problems has been called "the Smarandache Function." And in literature, we find his name on a book of poems called "NonPoems," and another called, "The Sense of NonSense." He has established and led a mathematical (but very contradictory) Paradoxist movement in literature.

"Country of Animals," a drama written by Smarandache, was staged at an international science fiction convention in Glasgow in August 1995.

The following poem, by Larry Seagull of Glendale Community College, conveys some of the spirit of Smarandache.

Poem in Arithmetic Space

Larry Seagull
Glendale Community College

There exist some sequences defined as "Smarandache" sequences of numbers.*

Smarandache consecutive sequence: 1, 12, 123, 1234, 12345, 123456, 1234567, 12345678, 123456789, 12345678910, . . . A number in this sequence is called a "Smarandache consecutive number."

Smarandache circular sequence: 1, 12, 21, 123, 231, 312, 1234, 2341, 3412, 4123, 12345, 23451, 34512, . . . A number in this sequence is called a "Smarandache circular number."

Smarandache symmetric sequence: 1, 11, 121, 1221, 12321, 123321, 1234321, 12344321, 123454321, 1234554321, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache symmetric number."

Smarandache deconstructive sequence: 1, 23, 456, 7891, 23456, 789123, 4567891, 23456789, 123456789, 1234567891, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache deconstructive number."

Smarandache mirror sequence: 1, 212, 32123, 4321234, 543212345, 65432123456, 7654321234567, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache mirror number."