

Communicating Mathematics Across Time

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Communicating Mathematics Across Time

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Mathematicians of the past had different ways of understanding and communicating their mathematical ideas. We begin this issue with an article by Michael Fried on how people of mathematics relate to the history of their subject. Christine von Renesse and Jennifer DiGrazia next show us how the process of writing and mathematics are interconnected; they both involve clear communication, and certain features of rhetoric and narrative. Boyan Kostandinov then shows us how Monte Carlo simulations of the United States Electoral College can be used as a great tool for communicating the process of computational thinking. Vladimir Kanovei, Karin Katz, Mikhail Katz, and Thomas Mormann wrestle with the question of what it means to have a useful theory of infinitesimals, by digging into the words of Klein and Fraenkel.

A second recurrent theme of this issue is probability. In their article, Sarah Cobb and Jeff Hood examine the probabilistic reasoning that underlies some of the decisions made in *The Martian*. Francesca Raphael and Jennifer Switkes explore probabilistic decisions of conversation topics on a date.

We have two reports in this issue. First, Katherine Thompson takes us on a tour of the Math Blogosphere. Next, Nurullah Goren and Tiffany Zhu take us back to the progenitor of JHM, the *Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal*. Their report covers the time period 1992 to 2004.

Next Susan D'Agostino presents a path to quickly fall in love with Math. Man Keung Siu considers the problem of balancing entertainment and learning in mathematics through the Seven Light Bulbs Problem, while Özgür

Akas considers how visually-impaired learners can be brought to mathematics. Igor Pak continues our communication theme with an article on how to write a clear paper in mathematics.

Robert Haas shows us a simple way that math shows up in his musical practice. While Hayat Rezgüi takes us through the life of the accomplished Russian mathematician Andrei Nikolaïevitch Tikhonov, Johanna Hardin describes the joy of communicating mathematics to the youngest members of our community through her Math Club. Andres Sanchez describes how mathematics helped him to discover his own identity and place in the world.

One of the ways mathematicians work is through communities, and Paolo Mancosu takes us through the history of The Group in Logic and the Methodology of Science formed at UC Berkeley in the fifties.

In his Perspective essay, Viktor Bläsjö looks at the differing approaches of philosophers and mathematicians to the notion of mathematical beauty.

Our book review this issue comes from Cindia Stewart, who reviews *Algebra in Context: Introductory Algebra from Origins to Applications* by Amy Shell-Gellasch and J.B. Thoo, which presents traditional mathematics within the context of the history of the subject.

Next comes a wealth of mathematical haiku from an amazing number of talented contributors! Thanks to Abrahamson, Arici, Bardone-Cone, Borkovitz, Brown, Callahan, Carroll, Cohen, Craiu, Farey, Gaines, George, Glendinning, Kline, Lesser, Levy, Lewis, McQuillan, Newman, Newman, Porter, Ranaldi-Adams, Schmidt, Schmidt, Schmidt, Sundstrom, van Duin, van Duin, Warrington, Weber, and Yellen for a magnificent variety of themes and images.

Besides haiku we continue to receive wonderful poems, and David Prichard, Shelley Nash, William Sarill, Jack Ritter, and Terry Trowbridge fill out our poetry section this issue. Our fiction piece this time is by Hugh Culik, and tells a tale of someone trying to understand the rules governing his universe.

We end with two announcements. First, the interdisciplinary critical journal *Mosaic* is doing a special issue on Numbers, and has issued a call for papers. Second, the 4th Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication Conference will be held this July in Wellington, New Zealand. All communicators are invited!