

7-1-1999

Circles

Valentino Loiacono
Hale Middle School

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/hmnj>

 Part of the [Junior High, Intermediate, Middle School Education and Teaching Commons](#),
[Mathematics Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Loiacono, Valentino (1999) "Circles," *Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal*: Iss. 20, Article 17.
Available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/hmnj/vol1/iss20/17>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Claremont at Scholarship @ Claremont. It has been accepted for inclusion in Humanistic Mathematics Network Journal by an authorized administrator of Scholarship @ Claremont. For more information, please contact scholarship@cuc.claremont.edu.

Bernoulli's numbers are also apparent, as they "appear in several of Ramanujan's formulas" [2, p. 7]. He developed "Magic Squares, an array of (usually distinct) natural numbers so that the sum of the numbers in each row, column, or diagonal is the same" [2, p. 16]. During most of the last year, before he went to England, he worked with the "general formulae in the theory of definite integrals" [4, p. 186]. Despite many ingenious results, "some of his theorems on prime numbers were completely wrong" [5].

In 1987, the centenary of Ramanujan's birth was celebrated all over the world. At the University of Illinois the celebrations included "a series of 28 expository lectures and several contributed papers that traced Ramanujan's influence to many areas of current research" [6, p. 1]. At Anna University, Madras, the University organized a number of "academic programmes throughout the centenary year and concluded the celebrations with an International Conference" [7, Preface]. Janaki, Ramanujan's widow, inaugurated the conference.

Ramanujan's notebooks would intrigue and frustrate whole generations of mathematicians. His life and works would captivate many. Kanigel wrote, "[the] more I learned, the more I, too, came under Ramanujan's spell" [3, p. 4]. Ramanujan's life leaves the reader captivated by an inexplicable force,

Ramanujan's spell.

Ramanujan and Hardy's names would be "linked forever in the history of mathematics" [3, p. 253]. Hardy's remarks in *Ramanujan* give teachers food for thought:

There was no gain at all when the College at Kumbakonam rejected the one great man they had ever possessed, and the loss was irreparable; it is the worst instance that I know of the damage that can be done by an inefficient and inelastic educational system [4, p. 7].

REFERENCES

1. <http://www.luc.ac.be/Research/NeuralNet/Activities/ramanujan.html>. (1998).
2. Berndt, Bruce C. (1985). *Ramanujan's Notebooks - Part I*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
3. Kanigel, Robert. (1991). *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius Ramanujan*. New York: Maxwell MacMillan International.
4. Hardy, G.H. (1959). *Ramanujan*. New York: Chelsea Publishing Co.
5. <http://www.groups.dcs.stand.ac.uk/~history/Mathematicians/Ramanujan.html>. (1996).
6. Berndt, Bruce C. (1989). *Ramanujan's Notebooks -Part II*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
7. Alladi, K. (1989). *Lecture Notes in Mathematics*. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.



Numbers

The animals were loaded 2 by 2
 Some were yellow, some were blue.
 The planets are in a row of nine
 They change positions according to time.
 365 days in a year
 All in my calendar sitting right here.
 4 score and 7 years ago
 Lincoln made the South his foe.
 Everything involves numbers like 1 and 2,
 Including the earth and you.

Shea Ybarra

Circles

and circles are everywhere,
 and circles are everywhere,
 but boys and girls do not
 seem to care. They help us and help us
 everyday, they are even the coins we have to
 pay. they're on cars, buses and even a jet, there's
 even one in the alphabet. You could roll 'em and
 pull 'em and give 'em a tug, they are sometimes
 the shape of a shell on a bug. A circle is
 something extraordinary. If you asked
 me if I liked them I'd have to say
 "very."

Valentino Loiacono