

NEWSLETTER

Mars / March 1984

Please send items to / Envoyer toute information à : Louis Charbonneau,
Département de mathématiques et d'informatique, U.Q.A.M., C.P. 8886,
succ. A, Montréal, Qué., H3C 3P8.

84.1 ANNUAL MEETING / CONGRES ANNUEL

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

June 7 - 8 juin
1984

CALL FOR PAPERS / APPEL DE COMMUNICATIONS

The programme committee is anxious to have a full and varied programme for papers presented at our Annual Meeting. Papers which present the results of research into the history of mathematics will be welcome. But this year, papers in the philosophy of mathematics, papers which link history and philosophy, and, in particular, papers which relate history or philosophy to the teaching of mathematics would be particularly welcome.

To commemorate the 300th anniversary of Leibnitz' first paper on calculus in 1683, there will be a special session on Leibnitz and the History of the Calculus, organized by Prof. H.N. Gupta of the University of Regina. Papers on Leibnitz, on the history of calculus, and particularly on the use of history to enrich the teaching of calculus, are solicited. If you feel that your paper would be appropriate for this session, mark your abstract "Special Session - Leibnitz" and it will be forwarded by the organizing committee to Prof. Gupta.

The committee has already received more than half a dozen titles. Have you send yours ?

Send all title with the abstract before April 7th. Abstracts received after April 7th will be considered if they can fitted into the programme.

Send your title and your abstract to:

Prof. John W. Berry
Department of Mathematics
University of Manitoba
Winnipeg, Man.
R3T 2N2

NOTE: As usual, we expect to receive a travel grant from SSHRC which will allow us to help you covering your expenses.

84.2 OTHER MEETINGS / AUTRES RENCONTRES

Canadian Mathematics Education Study Group
Groupe canadien d'étude en didactique des mathématiques

The Group will held its Eighth Annual Meeting at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ont., from the 2nd to the 6th of June 1984. Invited speakers will be Dr. Allan Bishop, from Cambridge University, and Dr. Leon Henkin, from the University of California at Berkeley. Working groups will

be on Logo and the mathematics curriculum, the impact of research and technology on school algebra curricula, and epistemology and mathematics education.

For more informations write to Bernard Hodgson, Sec.-Treas., CMESG, Département de mathématiques, Université Laval, Québec, Qué., G1K 7P4.

§ International Study Group On the Relations Between
History and Pedagogy of Mathematics

ISGHPM will meet April 25-27 immediately prior to the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) annual meeting in San Francisco, just as in Toronto in 1982 and Detroit in 1983. The meeting will be at the San Francisco University High School, Monday afternoon through Wednesday morning; the NCTM sessions begin Wednesday morning.

For more informations, contact Prof. V.F. Rickey, Dept of Mathematics and Statistics, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403.

§ National Council of Teachers of Mathematics

In San Francisco, April 26-28 1984. Contact: N.C.T.M., 1906 Association Dr. Reston, VA 22091.

§ Fifth International Congress on Mathematical Education (ICME 5)

In Adelaide, Australia, August 24-30, contact: ICME 5 Travel Planners, P.O. Box 32366, San Antonio, Texas 78216 (512/341-8131).

§ Conference on Renaissance Mathematics

The British Society for the History of Mathematics in conjunction with The Open University is organizing a conference on Renaissance mathematics to be held September 26 to 30, 1984. Conference themes include Pedagogic Aspects of Renaissance Mathematics; National Traditions in Mathematics; The Vernacular Tradition; The Work of Nicholas Chuquet; Mathematics and Other Sciences; Mathematics and Society. Workshop sessions are planned. English and French are the languages of the conference.

Enquiries should be directed to Dr. Cynthia Hay, Conference Secretary, Faculty of Mathematics, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, England.

§ Symposium international sur les polynomes orthogonaux et leurs applications.

Pour célébrer le 150ième anniversaire de la naissance de E.N. Laguerre, né et mort à Bar-le-Duc (1834-1886), un symposium international sur les polynomes orthogonaux et leurs applications se tiendra à Bar-le-Duc (250 km à l'est de Paris) du 15 au 18 octobre 1984. Quoiqu'étant un symposium mathématique, les organisateurs espèrent que de nombreuses communications porteront sur l'histoire de polynomes orthogonaux. J. Dieudonné donnera une conférence sur "L'oeuvre mathématique de Laguerre". Les communications seront de 20 minutes suivies de 5 minutes de discussions.

Vous pouvez envoyer le titre ainsi que le résumé de votre communication, avant le 15 avril, à :

André Drau:
U.E.R. I.E.E.A. - M3
Université de Lille I
59655 VILLENEUVE D'ASCQ Cedex
FRANCE

§ History of Science Society

In Chicago, December 27-30, contact: HSS, 215 S. 34th St/D6, Univ. Penn., Philadelphia, Penn. 19104.

**84.3 COMPUTERS AND THE HUMANITIES:
SPECIAL ISSUE ON CANADIAN ACTIVITIES
NUMERO SPECIAL SUR LES ACTIVITES CANADIENNES**

At the invitation of Professor Joseph Raben, editor of Computers and the Humanities, one of the 1985 numbers of this journal will be a special issue devoted to activities in Canada. The guest editor will be Paul Bratley of the Université de Montréal. Papers for this special issue are invited from colleagues working in Canada on computing and the humanities, and from colleagues elsewhere whose work has a particular bearing on Canadian studies.

All submitted papers will be refereed before acceptance. Potential authors are invited to consult the "Information for Contributors" inside the back cover of a current issue of the journal. In particular, papers are acceptable in either English or French.

Please submit possible contributions to this special issue before 30th June 1984* to the guest editor:

Paul Bratley
Département d'informatique et de r.o.
Université de Montréal
C.P. 6128, Succ. A
MONTREAL, Qué.
H3C 3J7

A l'invitation du professeur Joseph Raben, éditeur de Computers and the Humanities, une des premières livraisons de l'année 1985 de cette revue sera consacrée aux activités canadiennes. L'éditeur de ce numéro spécial sera Paul Bratley de l'Université de Montréal. Les collègues travaillant au Canada dans le domaine des applications de l'informatique aux sciences humaines, ainsi que les collègues à l'étranger dont le travail revêt une importance particulière pour les études canadiennes, sont invités à soumettre des articles en vue de leur publication dans cette livraison spéciale.

Les articles reçus seront examinés par un comité de lecture avant d'être acceptés. Les auteurs éventuels sont invités à consulter la rubrique "Information for Contributors" d'un numéro récent de la revue. En particulier, ces contributions seront acceptées en français ou en anglais.

Veuillez envoyer les communications destinées à ce numéro spécial avant le 30 juin 1984 à:

Paul Bratley
Département d'informatique et de r.o.
Université de Montréal
C.P. 6128, Succ. A
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84.4 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A- SSHRC and CFH

Viviane Launey, the Executive Director of the Canadian Federation of Humanities is a tireless organizer who has been keeping the member organizations well informed about a considerable amount of activity which has been going on, particularly with respect to funding. I have recently received a long memorandum from her which touches on the following issues:

(1) Funding of CFH by SSHRC *

About 65% of the operating costs of CFH are provided by SSHRC. In 1982, citing the inappropriateness of SSHRC funding a body which carries out lobbies to government, SSHRC council passed a motion to phase out its financial support of CFH. The reason is ironic, since

* CFH : Canadian Federation of Humanities
SSHRC : Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

CFH had participated, at the behest of SSHRC, in an approach to government to increase the grant to SSHRC. According to Launay, this was the first time CFH had carried out any overt lobbying. In response to the dismay at SSHRC's motion, SSHRC Council has now decided to maintain its grant to CFH at the current level.

CFH maintains a staff of four fulltime persons and has a budget of \$312,575 for 1982-83. Already, some CFH committees cannot function for lack of money and the Federation will have difficulty meeting salary increases.

(2) Administrative and Travel Grants from SSHRC

Since 1981, SSHRC has been making a block grant to CFH, which has then distributed money to its member organizations according to an equitable formula for administration and travel. This scheme, which is widely supported by the organizations, is to run until March 1984. In 1982, without prior notice, SSHRC announced that it was going to replace this scheme by one in which all learned societies would have to apply directly to SSHRC for funds in a "competition". Again this met with considerable resistance, in part because it would be impossible to allow societies to plan ahead effectively. This led to a revision of the programme as follows:

- (a) grants will be continued into 1984-1985 for those supported in the current year;
- (b) when the system is in full swing, each society will be reevaluated each three years;
- (c) eligibility criteria are published, basically that the societies receiving support have been active for at least three years;
- (d) societies receiving support will have had to operated in accordance with their constitutions and maintained a satisfactory record of financial administration;
- (e) there will be a funding formula: \$500 plus \$13 per member up to 850 members; it is not clear whether this applies to travel or administrative grants, or both together. There is a condition that at least half of a society's administrative costs should be met by dues.
- (f) short term arrangements are made, financially and administratively, to phase in the new regime.
- (g) additional grants of \$500 are available to groups of societies.

(3) SSHRC's New Five-Year Plan

SSHRC announced its priorities over the next five years: independent research, fellowships for young scholars, library support, national communications, aid to small universities and introduction of a programme of national research institutes. The last is not likely to proceed very far. Supported by a document on the humanities in Canada prepared by CFH, he has yet to be finally approved by the government.

For 1984-85, SSHRC has requested \$8 millions, and fears it may receive only half that.

(4) Research Caucuses in the Humanities

These are groups at various universities formed to improve lobbying effectiveness and public awareness.

(5) Humanists on Panel and Council

Following representations to increase the number of humanists on SSHRC, five humanists have been appointed.

I would be happy to send any of you a copy of the whole memorandum. There is quite a lot of supporting material which I will be happy to show you at Guelph.

Wesley Stevens is our representative at the Canadian Federation of Humanities.