

# Report of the Activities of the International Commission for the History of Mathematics (ICHM) in 2010 for the

International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS)
Division of History of Science and Technology (DHST)

Craig Fraser (Chair)

# Projects:

- 1. The ICHM continues to maintain a webpage of its activities and of matters of interest to historians of mathematics internationally. See the ICHM website http://www.unizar.es/ichm/home.htm
- 2. The ICHM continues to update and maintain a database of information on historians of mathematics around the world.
- 3. The ICHM created and maintains an e-mail list of historians of mathematics internationally designed to inform colleagues in a timely manner of the ICHM's activities.
- 4. The ICHM continues actively to solicit and to co-sponsor special sessions and conferences internationally.
- 5. The ICHM is in the process of establishing a committee to spearhead a project that will be devoted to an updated bibliography of the history of mathematics.

#### **Publications:**

*Historia Mathematica* is the official journal of the ICHM. It appears four times annually and publishes roughly 525 pages of original research in the history of mathematics from all times and cultures. The journal is currently edited by Niccolò Guicciardini (Italy) and June Barrow-Green (United Kingdom). It is published by Elsevier Science and is available electronically to subscribers of IDEAL.

#### Medals and Prizes:

The **Kenneth O**. **May Medal** is awarded every four years to the historian or historians of mathematics whose work best exemplifies the high scholarly and intellectual contributions to the field that May worked so hard to achieve. It was awarded for the sixth time at the International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest, Hungary in July 2009 to Ivor Grattan-Guinness (United Kingdom) for his seminal work particularly in the history of nineteenth- and



twentieth-century mathematics and to R. C. Gupta (India) for his ground-breaking work on the history of mathematics in India (see the ICHM website for the report).

The formal presentation of the May Prize to R. C. Gupta took place at the closing Ceremony of the International Congress of Mathematicians on August 27, 2010 in Hyderbad, India. The presentation was made by Kim Plofker. The ceremony is on archived video at the ICM website, in the Closing Ceremony at about 00:30.

# Conferences co-sponsored by the ICHM in 2010:

## Sessions on history of mathematics

January 15-16, 2010; Joint Mathematics Meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, San Francisco, CA

Organizers: Craig Fraser, Deborah Kent, Sloan Despeaux

## Mathematics meets physics - General and local aspects

March 22 –25, 2010; Saxon Academy of Science, Leipzig

Organizers: Menso Folkerts, Karl-Heinz Schlote, Martina Schneider

#### International Conference on the History of Modern Mathematics

August 11-17, 2010; Xi'an, CHINA

Organizers: Qu Anjing and Karine Chemla

#### The History of the History of Mathematics

December 16-17, 2010; All Souls College, Oxford University

Organizer: Benjamin Wardhaugh, Oxford University

# Borders and Gates or Open Spaces? Knowledge cultures in the Mediterranean during the 14th and 15th centuries

December 17-22, 2010, Universidad de Sevilla

Organizers: Sonja Brentjes, José Ferreirós Dominguez

#### Sessions on history of mathematics

January 6-7, 2011; Joint Mathematics Meeting of the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America, San Francisco, CA

Organizers: Craig Fraser, Deborah Kent, Sloan Despeaux



# Administration:

In 2010 Menso Folkerts completed his many years of service as treasurer of the ICHM. The new treasurer of the ICHM is Henrik Kragh Sørensen. The ICHM accounts were transferred from Munich to Aarhus in October of 2010.

October 31, 2010