

INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION COMMISSION Preparatory Work

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INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION COMMISSION

Participation of the Commission in the Amsterdam Congress, 1954.

Preparatory Work

by

H. BEHNKE (Munster, Westphalia).

I. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At its first General Assembly, held in Rome from 9 March 1952, the International Mathematics Union reconstituted the International Mathematical Instruction Commission (I.M.I.C.) by calling upon Messrs. H. BEHNKE (Munster, Westphalia), A. CHATELET (Paris), H. FEHR (Geneva), R. L. JEFFERY (Canada) and D. KUREPA (Zagreb, Yugoslavia).

The Commission met at Geneva on 21 and 22 October 1952 and twice again in Paris on 21 February 1953 and 15 January 1954, to draw up an overall programme of work for presentation to the International Mathematicians' Congress to be held in Amsterdam in September 1954.

Additional members have been co-opted to form the following *Executive Committee* of the Commission:

Honorary President:	H. FEHR, Switzerland, route de Florissant 110, Geneva.
Member ex officio:	H. STONE, U.S.A., Eckhart Hall 303, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois.
President:	A. CHATELET, France, Faculty of Sciences, Paris.
Vice-Presidents:	G. KUREPA, Yugoslavia, Vincoviceva 6, Zagreb. S. MACLANE, U.S.A., University of Chicago.
Secretary:	H. BEHNKE, Germany, Institute of Mathematics, Munster University, Schlossplatz 2, Munster, Westphalia.
Treasurer:	G. ASCOLI, Italy, Via Giacomo Medici 44, Turin.

Members:

A. F. ANDERSEN, Denmark, Parkvaenget 28,
Charlottenlund.

R. L. JEFFERY, Canada, Queen's University,
Kingston, Ontario.

MAXWELL, Great Britain.

E. W. BETH, Netherlands.

The present membership of the I.M.U. covers twenty-seven: Argentine, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaya-Singapore, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

In each of these countries a *National Committee for Mathematics* has been set up which combines with the respective national sub-commission, which in turn has the task of collaborating in the work of the I.M.I.C.

In his circular dated 7 May 1953, Prof. Châtelet of C.I.E.M. proposed to take: *L'Enseignement mathématique*, well known by all readers, as the Commission's official publication.

II. CIRCULAR FOR DISTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL SUB-COMMISSIONS.

The Executive Committee of the International Mathematical Instruction Commission (I.M.I.C.) held its meeting on Jan. 15th 1954 at Paris under the presidency of Mr. CHATELET, president of the I.M.I.C.

I have the honour of imparting the decisions made at this meeting dealing with the two inquiries and the exhibition of the books and the documents settling the participation of the I.M.I.C. at the International Mathematical Congress which will be held at Amsterdam in Sept. 1954. I am adding two notes to this letter:

one referring to the inquiry on the "Part of Mathematics and the Mathematician in Contemporary Life" (this will be the subject of a general report presented to the Congress at Amsterdam by Mr. KUREPA, vice-president of the I.M.I.C.);
the other referring to the exhibition of books and documents which shall be mentioned below.

I would be very grateful to the presidents of the national sub-commissions if they made use of the indications given either by this letter or the included notes particularly those concerning the date of sending the reports, the documents and the names of the reporters or of the persons appointed.

*Decisions on the Preparations for the Amsterdam Congress Arrived
at by the Committee of the I.M.I.C. on January 15th, 1954.*

1. Inquiry on "The Part of Mathematics and the Mathematician in Contemporary Life". — Mr. KUREPA will present the general report

at the Congress at Amsterdam thus opening the series of discussions dealing with the different questions connected with the object of this inquiry.

The included note recalls and specifies the sense and wide import of this inquiry.

The national subcommissions are asked:

- (1) to let Mr. KUREPA, vice-president of the I.M.I.C., know *the earliest possible* the names and addresses of the appointed reporters (Mr. KUREPA's address: Institute of Mathematics, Zagreb, Yugoslavia);
- (2) to send the reports on this inquiry to Mr. KUREPA *before May 30th, 1954*.

2. *Inquiry on Mathematical Instruction for Students between 16 and 21 years of age* (program, methodes...). — For this inquiry there will be no general report prepared. Each national subcommission is asked to appoint a delegate to give the report laid down by the subcommission.

In order to facilitate the organization of this part of the Congress at Amsterdam we want to point out that

- (1) the national subcommissions are asked to send the names and addresses of the appointed reporters, *before February 28th, 1954* directly to Mr. BEHNKE, secretary of the I.M.I.C., Schlossplatz 2, Universität Münster, Münster (Westfalen), Germany;
- (2) a brief summary set up by each national subcommission should be sent by the reporter to Mr. BEHNKE (address above), *before June 30th, 1954*.

3. *Exhibition of books and documents* concerning actual mathematical instruction for students between 16 and 21 years of age. — The national center of French educational documents willingly agrees to be in charge of collecting all the books and documents for this exhibition and of sending them to Amsterdam.

This exhibition is not to comprehend textbooks only but also any important text connected with the organization of the instruction in every country (schedules, instruction, educational reviews . . .). It is taken for granted that each national subcommission overtakes the responsibility of its own choice of books and documents to be sent to the exhibition.

Every national subcommission is asked to name a person responsible for the preparation of this exhibition; name and address of this person are to be sent directly to Mr. CARDOT, Centre national de documentation pédagogique, rue d'Ulm 29, Paris (V^e), France.

H. BEHNKE,
Secretary of the I.M.I.C.

III. INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY ON THE PART OF MATHEMATICS AND THE MATHEMATICIAN IN CONTEMPORARY LIFE.

The part occupied by sciences and especially by mathematics in the different spheres of life at a given era can be regarded as one of the characteristic elements for the reached standard of civilization and culture of that particular epoch. The importance of mathematics and thus that of the mathematician in a wider sense is growing in proportion to the development of mankind; new possibilities, new opportunities for applying mathematics are discovered. The extraordinary success made in the exploration of inert and living nature, both in small and large infinite dimensions, the theoretical and technical discoveries with their enormous possibilities of application, the newly acquired perspectives in social and human sciences have not ceased enriching and extending considerably the field of abstract and applied mathematics (among most recent extensions f.i. biometry, econometry, cybernetics) as well as the possibilities of work and activities for the mathematician.

The International Commission of Mathematical Instruction (I.M.I.C.) has decided to arrange for an inquiry on this important question to try to solve it and to present a report to the International Congress of Mathematics which will take place at Amsterdam from September 2nd to September 9th, 1954.

Each national subcommission of the I.M.I.C. is earnestly invited to participate at this inquiry. It is extremely desirable that the reporters appointed by the national subcommission endeavour to consult qualified personages in all sections of contemporary life and that they give account of the gathered opinions as well as of facts that appeared remarkable to them rendering every information as detailed as they can obtain them and adding, if possible, some significant documents. This will provide that the general report will give an idea of the actual situation as exact and complete as possible. As a matter of course the inquiry shall not neglect any aspects of the problems being either of intellectual, scientific, social kind or of the nature of practical application.

The reports to be prepared by the national subcommissions should be sent, *before May 30th, 1954*, to M. G. KUREPA, vice-president of the I.M.I.C., Institute of Mathematics, Zagreb (Yugoslavia).

The presidents of the national subcommissions are asked to let Mr. KUREPA know the names and addresses of the appointed reporters *as early as possible*.

IV. EXHIBITION OF MATHEMATICS PUBLICATIONS
TO BE HELD DURING THE AMSTERDAM CONGRESS, 1954.

Explanatory Note.

1. Description of the Exhibition.
 1. Nature of documentation.
 2. Presentation of documentation.
 3. Classification of documentation.
2. Responsibility for the Exhibition.
 1. In Paris.
 2. In each participating country.
 3. In Amsterdam.
3. Practical organisational arrangements.
 1. Before the Exhibition.
 2. During the Exhibition.
 3. After the Exhibition.

1. *Description of the Exhibition.*

1. *Nature of Documentation.*

The Exhibition to be held during the Amsterdam Congress will be entirely devoted to publications connected with the present-day teaching of mathematics to pupils and students between 16 and 21 years of age. (These two age limits are only approximate and may be varied slightly according to the system of education in force in different countries.)

(a) The exhibits submitted may fall into one, several, or all of the following categories:

- (i) Text books used by pupils or students for their studies and their preparation for examinations;
- (ii) Books for use by the teacher or professor (keys to exercises, methodology, scientific teaching of mathematics, examination and scholarship syllabuses, etc.);
- (iii) Mathematics reviews;
- (iv) Books for use by pupils and students to increase their mathematical culture (for example, articles on the work and life of great mathematicians, mathematical problems, etc.).

(b) There are no restrictions as to the source of publication of these volumes. Any publisher coming within one of the following categories is entitled to take part in the Exhibition; commercial or private firms, scholastic establishments, official departments, associations, etc.

- (c) The full instructional value of the collections can only be attained if they are accompanied, for each country, by information as to the general organisation of education in the country, together with a descriptive chart; which should indicate, in particular, the relative place and the main characteristics of the teaching of mathematics. It is thus desirable to combine all the documents—official texts (curricula, instructions, etc.) conspectuses, sketches, etc., in such a way as to present for each country an actual picture of that country's mathematical instruction.

2. *Presentation of Documentation.*

- (a) The documents will be grouped by countries, each country having a stand for its separate use.
- (b) The exact allocation of these stands inside the Exhibition premises will be determined later.
- (c) In principle, the size of the stand reserved for each country will vary according to the amount of material sent by that country. Likewise, in principle, no limit has yet been placed on the volume of that material; if such restrictions do appear necessary they will be determined and notified later.
- (d) The countries exhibiting should comply strictly with the following arrangements:
 - (i) Each document submitted should be in one copy only;
 - (ii) A maximum of three display panels may, if required, be used on which to set out the instructional organisation of the respective country (see paragraph I, 1, (c)); the size of each display panel should be not larger than 100×120 cm;
 - (iii) Publishers will be allowed to set out parcels of catalogues, each publisher may distribute a maximum of 500 catalogues during the period of the Exhibition.
- (e) It is intended to publish a brief catalogue of the Exhibition, in a form to be indicated later.

3. *Classification of Documentation.*

- (a) Each country's stand should consist of two sections as indicated in paragraphs I, 1, (a) and I, 1, (c) showing:
 - on the one hand, the media of teaching (books, reviews, brochures and all other printed instructional documents);
 - on the other hand, the actual organisation of teaching (official and explanatory texts necessary for the examination of the above teaching media).
- (b) The display panels mentioned above in paragraph I, 2, (d) (ii), should be made up with block lettering or outlines on a white

background. The participating country is responsible for the preparation of these panels.

- (c) The classification of documents on each stand is the responsibility of the respective country's representative. (See below paragraph II, 2, (a)).
- (d) On the other hand, the exhibition organiser will be responsible for the material necessary for such classification: display panels, labels, etc. (cf. below, paragraph II, 3, (d)). The exhibition organiser is also responsible for providing the necessary material for directional signs and indications, etc.

This twofold arrangement, as well as that under paragraph I, 3, (b) below, is intended to ensure the exhibition's homogeneity, to protect the dignified and aesthetic form of the exhibition from too much publicity or commercialism, and to place all the exhibitors on equal terms with each other.

2. *Responsibility for the Exhibition.*

1. *In Paris.*

- (a) The National Centre of Pedagogical Documentation ("Le Centre national de documentation pédagogique" (C.N.D.P.)) of the French Ministry of National Education is in charge of the organisation of the exhibition.
- (b) Responsibility rests with M. CARDOT, head of the "Department for Scholastic Publications and Didactic and Scientific Material" ("Département de l'Édition scolaire et du matériel didactique et scientifique") of the C.N.D.P.

M. Cardot's address is as follows: Monsieur André CARDOT, Centre national de documentation pédagogique, rue d'Ulm 29, Paris (5^e), France. Telephone: Paris: Odéon 76-50.

- (c) All correspondence concerning the exhibition should be addressed to M. CARDOT who will maintain necessary contact with the organisers of the Congress in Amsterdam, as well as with M. CHATELET (France) and M. BEHNKE (Germany). Correspondence may be in one of the five following languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian.

2. *In each country participating.*

- (a) In each country participating, a delegate should be designated whose task will be:
to determine which of his country's exhibitors should be authorised to take part in the exhibition;

to determine the list of documents which each exhibitor may present;
to assemble these lists and to forward them to M. Cardot;
to inform M. Cardot as to the method of classification adopted;
and
finally, to give him the wording for the panels and labels, the making up of which is to be in the hands of the I.M.I.C. as described in paragraph I, 3, (d) below.

- (b) The name and address of the responsible person should be sent to M. Cardot before 1 March 1954. In principle, this official will be his country's only correspondent with M. Cardot. All intending exhibitors in each country should, therefore, pass any additional requests for information to this official and not directly to M. Cardot.
- (c) On the other hand, the exhibitors will themselves despatch their parcels to M. Cardot in Paris, after being so authorised by the representative for their country. In no case should they despatch material directly to Amsterdam. Each consignment of material to M. Cardot should be confirmed by a letter in duplicate, one addressed to the country's representative and one to M. Cardot. This letter should list the contents of the parcel, the date of despatch, and the method of transport used.

3. *In Amsterdam.*

- (a) The choice and preparation of premises for the exhibition are the concern of the Dutch Sub-Commission of the I.M.I.C., who, in particular, will provide the furniture, shelving and all necessary fixtures.
- (b) The installation of the exhibition in the premises will also be the responsibility of the Dutch Sub-Commission of the I.M.I.C., who will be assisted by M. Cardot.
- (c) A Dutch representative for all such physical arrangements will be appointed before 1 April; he will be the sole correspondant with M. Cardot for these matters.
- (d) The National Centre for Pedagogic Documentation in Paris is responsible, after collecting together the consignments despatched by exhibitors from all participating countries, for the cost of transporting them from Paris to Amsterdam; the Centre will also provide the display boards and labels as denoted in paragraph I, (e), (d). The Dutch representative indicated in the preceding paragraph will assume responsibility for the whole collection upon its arrival in Amsterdam.

3. *Practical Organisational Arrangements.*

1. *Before the Exhibition.*

- (a) The final date for the forwarding of parcels to M. Cardot by exhibitors has been fixed for 15 June 1954.
- (b) Exhibitors will forward their goods at their own expense; M. Cardot will provide a detailed receipt in respect of each consignment received.
- (c) Shippers are strongly advised to take all necessary precautions to cover customs requirements, experience having shown that it is here that delays often occur.
- (d) Before 1 June 1954 the representative of each country must provide M. Cardot with the list of display panels and labels to be made up by C.N.D.P. in Paris (category headings, different sub-divisions, names of publishers, etc.).
- (e) Before 1 July 1954 the Dutch representative mentioned in paragraph II, 3, above, should advise M. Cardot as to the date when he wishes to receive the documents assembled in Paris.
- (f) The representatives of participating countries are invited to provide M. Cardot, on their own initiative, with any information which might help to improve the instructional value of the documents selected for the exhibition, together with the information as to classification adopted. M. Cardot will also be glad to receive any suggestions which the representatives may make, but these should be received before 15 June.

2. *During the Exhibition.*

- (a) Upon the arrival of the documentation, the organisers of the Congress are responsible for providing the necessary personnel for the installation of the exhibition.
- (b) They will also make the necessary arrangements to ensure that the premises are guarded and cleaned during the period of the exhibition.
- (c) Details concerning the opening date and duration of the exhibition will be communicated later. If certain countries express such a wish, the exhibition could subsequently visit various other towns, under arrangements to be considered and agreed at a later stage.

3. *After the Exhibition.*

- (a) If such restrictions as are envisaged in paragraph I, 2, (c), appear necessary the appropriate decisions would be taken by a com-

mission appointed by the organisers of the Congress; in this case those publications not exhibited would be returned to their owners at the expense of C.N.D.P., Paris.

- (b) The return to Paris of all material exhibited will be the responsibility of C.N.D.P.
 - (c) After the exhibition, all the documents will become the property of the C.N.D.P., Paris, where they will be included in the collection assembled for the International Mathematical Instruction Commission by the good offices of M. Chatelet.
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L'ACTIVITÉ DE LA COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

La Commission internationale de l'Enseignement mathématique voyait dans le Congrès d'Amsterdam une occasion particulièrement favorable de se présenter, pour la première fois depuis sa reconstitution en 1952, devant le public mathématique.

La Commission organisa, dans le cadre du Congrès d'Amsterdam, une exposition de livres didactiques où l'Allemagne, les Etats-Unis, la France et l'Italie occupaient les places principales. Cette exposition, très fréquentée, permettait une comparaison très instructive entre les diverses méthodes d'enseignement des mathématiques.

Toujours dans le cadre de ce Congrès, onze rapports ont été présentés par différentes nations. Ils se groupaient sous les titres suivants:

- 1^o Enquête sur l'enseignement des mathématiques, dans la période de 16 à 21 ans (programmes, méthodes...),
- 2^o Enquête internationale sur le rôle des mathématiques et du mathématicien dans la vie contemporaine.

Les rapports de la première enquête constituaient une série de documents forts instructifs, révélant les efforts de différents pays. On était impressionné des formes diverses sous lesquelles les problèmes se présentent chez les différentes nations.

Le rapport de la seconde enquête tentait de dresser un inventaire de l'application des mathématiques aux activités et métiers les plus variés. L'enquête, qui n'en est qu'à ses débuts, sera poursuivie et un rapport sera présenté au prochain congrès, à Edimbourg.

Ces séances ont été suivies avec un grand intérêt et avec une unanime satisfaction par un public nombreux.