

SWISS MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

In 1883, on the centenary of Euler's death, Ferdinand Rudio suggested to publish all books, papers and the correspondence of Leonhard Euler in a scientific edition. Rudio was one of the organizers of the first International Congress of Mathematicians in 1897 in Zürich and advanced his plan on that occasion further. Finally, in 1907, the bicentennial of Euler's birth, the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences agreed to pursue this project and an Euler Committee was installed. The resulting activities made it desirable to have a national mathematical society which was then founded on 4 September 1910 by Marcel Grossmann, Rudolf Fueter and Henri Fehr. A few years later, the need for a mathematical journal was felt. Since Switzerland has four official languages, a Latin title for the journal was chosen in a meeting of the Swiss Mathematical Society (SMS) on 20 May 1928: *Commentarii Mathematici Helvetici*. In the sequel, in 1929, Michel Plancherel, Andreas Speiser, Émile Marchand and Rudolf Fueter established the Foundation for the Promotion of the Mathematical Sciences with the aim to provide, together with the SMS, a solid financial basis for the new journal.

Zürich is the only city which hosted the ICM three times: After the first ICM in 1897, the international mathematical community met



Euler's desk

again in Zürich in 1932 and in 1994. Each time, the SMS played a major role in organizing the Congress. Moreover, in 2007, the SMS was the hosting organization of the ICIAM in Zürich.

In 1930, a Committee was set up by the SMS to take care of the legacy of Jakob Steiner, and in 1937 the same committee was given the responsibility for the archive left by Ludwig Schläfli. The journal *Elemente der Mathematik* was founded in 1946 by Louis Locher-Ernst. In order to guarantee the continuance of the journal, the SMS took over the responsibility for its publication in 1975.

The SMS played a leading role in the creation of the European Mathematical Society Publishing House in 2002 whose permanent office resides at ETH Zürich. In particular, the SMS decided to have their journals published by the new publishing house. In order to join the efforts of the mathematical community to make the global mathematical corpus digitally available, the SMS founded in 2005 the Swiss Digital Mathematical Library which archives the *Commentarii*, *Elemente* and *L'Enseignement Mathématique*, the official organ of the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction. This journal was founded in 1899 by Henri Fehr and Charles-Ange Laisant.



Today, the SMS organizes an Annual Meeting in spring with a public lecture. The meeting also includes the General Assembly of the Society. Moreover, the SMS hosts a Fall Conference which is dedicated to a scientific topic. It also supports national and international mathematical conferences in Switzerland.

The century-long task of publishing Euler's Opera Omnia is shortly before its completion with 74 volumes in the Series I-III, and 9 volumes in the Series IVA with Euler's scientific correspondence. The Bernoulli-Euler Center, founded in 2010 and the Bernoulli-Euler Society, founded in 2014, aims to promote research about the life and work of the Basel scholars who are counted among the most important scientists of the 18th century, and the conversion of the classic editorial activities into the digital age for the benefits of the research and the future generations. The SMS, the Foundation for the Promotion of

the Mathematical Sciences, the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Swiss Academy of Sciences support this new venture.

Today, an important concern of the SMS is the promotion of mathematical instruction and of young mathematicians. In even years, the SMS awards a Prize for young talents, namely for the best maturity works in mathematics at the school leaving examination. The SMS publishes a weekly Bulletin, has reciprocity and double member agreements with many sister societies, among them the LMS, and supports mathematics in developing countries. In its history, the SMS has appointed over 30 eminent mathematicians as honorary members.

Further information about the SMS can be found on the website <http://math.ch>.

Norbert Hungerbühler
Past President
Swiss Mathematical Society

MATHEMATICAL STAMPS WEBSITE

The Sociedade Portuguesa de Matemática and the British Society for the History of Mathematics have produced a Mathematical Stamps website, www.mathematicalstamps.eu, for use by teachers and others. Featuring over 450 postage stamps depicting mathematics and mathematicians from around the world, it also includes an extensive historical commentary written by Robin Wilson. These are currently

in English and Portuguese, and it is hoped that other languages will be added in due course.

A one-hour public lecture given by Robin Wilson on *The History of Mathematics in 300 Stamps* is available for watching on the Oxford Mathematical Institute website at www.maths.ox.ac.uk/node/13353.

See a selection of the stamps on the back page of this *Newsletter*.

VISIT OF MANFRED MADRITSCH

Dr Manfred Madritsch (Institute Elie Cartan Nancy, Université de Lorraine, Nancy, France) will be visiting the UK between 24 May and 2 June 2017. His research interests are in exponential sums. Dr Madritsch will be visiting the following institutions where he will give talks:

- 24-28 May, Royal Holloway, University of London (contact Martin Widmer: Martin.Widmer@rhul.ac.uk)

- 29 - 31 May, University of Reading (contact Titus Hilberdink: t.w.hilberdink@reading.ac.uk)
- 31 May - 2 June, University of Bristol (contact Tim Browning: t.d.browning@bristol.ac.uk)

Precise dates and times as well as titles will be available closer to the time. Further details of these arrangements may be obtained from Titus Hilberdink (t.w.hilberdink@reading.ac.uk). The visit is supported by an LMS Scheme 2 grant.