

# Mathematics in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire

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Christa Binder; Martina Bečvářová  
[Editorial message]

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Dear colleagues,

XXIII<sup>th</sup> *International Congress of History of Science and Technology* took place in *Budapest* from July 28 till August 2, 2009. More than 1300 specialists from all over the world (60 different countries) attended the congress and presented their research results, studies, investigations and contributions. Nine plenary lectures, 52 sections, 79 symposiums, many poster sessions and various social events were held.<sup>1</sup>

One of the symposiums was devoted to the history of mathematics in the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy during its final period and it was organized under the name *Mathematics in the Austrian-Hungarian Empire* by Christa Binder (University of Technology in Vienna) and Martina Bečvářová (Czech University of Technology in Prague).

We discussed the situation from the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the First World War. Before 1848, the level of mathematics was very low in the Austrian monarchy. It needed some time, much effort and a clever policy to raise it to the high level that it has reached in the first years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The improved training of teachers and the curricula in schools formed the basis for a better education.

We had talks by specialists from various European countries on biographies, on organizational issues, including the foundation of new institutions, such as universities, colleges of technology, as well as academies of science which also played an important role in the development of mathematics. Some typical career of mathematicians, the path leading from small universities at the border of the empire to the main universities in Prague and Vienna was described. Further topics were the interaction between the different nations, the special situations in Austria, Hungary, the Czech countries, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Vojvodina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in other parts of the Empire and Europe, the problem of the different languages and national revivals, the level of mathematical education and knowledge as well as the industrial, political and cultural conditions. And, of course, we tried to analyse the development of mathematical fields, such as the growing importance of geometry and descriptive geometry, the rise of analysis, and the evolution of modern algebra and logic.

In order to document the proceedings of the symposium we prepared this book that contains extended versions of the contributions presented in Budapest.

*Martina Bečvářová and Christa Binder*

Prague and Vienna, December 2009

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<sup>1</sup> More information see *Book of Abstracts and List of Participants, XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology*, 28 July – 2 August 2009, Budapest, International Union of History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History of Science, and Technology, Budapest, 2009 and [www.conferences.hu/ichst09](http://www.conferences.hu/ichst09).

Znaky rakouských zemí korunních a zemí uherských.



Heraldis of the Lands of Austro-Hungarian Monarchy