

Mathematics throughout the ages

Foreword

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FOREWORD

The 10th Novembertagung on the history of mathematics took place in Denmark from October 28th to October 31th, 1999. Normally the Novembertagung does not receive any funding, but this year it was sponsored by the Danish Network for the History and Philosophy of Mathematics, financed by the Danish Natural Science Foundation. This meant that we were able to rent the conference building “Søminestationen” – an old navy building by the sea near Holbæk, which is now a conference building belonging to Roskilde University.

The meeting was well attended. The list of participants counts 31 persons coming from a variety of countries: Denmark, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France and even one Ph.D. student in the history of mathematics from USA.

The theme of the 10th Novembertagung was devoted to issues on the history and philosophy of mathematics. Peter Clemens Kjærgaard from the University of Aarhus presented the theme in a talk with the title “How can the Philosophy of Mathematics contribute to the History of Mathematics?” As is always the case at the Novembertagungs, younger historians of mathematics present their research project regardless of their subject of investigation. This of course meant that there were many talks not directly related to the theme. On the other hand the theme had attracted some philosophers of mathematics which created a nice balance for discussions in relation to the theme.

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