YURI IVANOVICH MANIN

   Yuri Ivanovich Manin was born on February 16, 1937, in the city of Simfero-
pol—the capital of Crimea. His father died in the war; his mother was a
specialist in literature. Manin's mathematical capabilities became apparent early
in his life: when he was still a schoolboy he wrote a paper in which he slightly
improved an estimate by I. M. Vinogradov on the number of integer points on a
sphere. In 1953 he entered Moscow University. This was a rare period in the
history of Mekh-Mat (the mechanics-mathematics faculty), which has played a
role in the mathematical life of the USSR roughly equivalent to that of the Ecole
Normale in France. Anosov and Golod were in the same year as Manin, and one
course below him were Arnol'd, Kirillov, Novikov and Tyurin. Such a blossoming
of talent has not been repeated since. Manin immediately immersed himself in
the atmosphere of intense creative work which is characteristic of Mekh-Mat. By
his second year he was already an active participant in the seminar led by A. O.
Gel'fond and I. R. Shafarevich. The goal of the seminar was to acquaint
specialists in analytic number theory with the work of H. Hasse and A. Weil on
the analogues of the Riemann hypotheses for algebraic varieties over a finite field.
These results gave excellent estimates of trigonometric sums which were neces-