

Proofs and Mathematics” (*Mathematics Magazine* 53 (1980), 131–138. He is perhaps best known for the anthology which he edited, *New Directions in the Philosophy of Mathematics* (Boston/Basel/ Stuttgart, Birkhäuser, 1985; Birkhäuser Boston, 1986). The latter includes a reprint of “The Four-Color Problem and Its Philosophical Significance”, which is undoubtedly his best-known and most important article on the philosophical significance of the use of computers in mathematical theorem proving.

PAUL ERDÖS (1913 – 1996)

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PAUL ERDÖS died in Warsaw, Poland on Friday afternoon, 20 September 1996 while attending a combinatorics seminar. The doctor at the hospital in Warsaw reported that in the early morning of that day, Erdős had suffered a heart attack in his hotel room and called for medical assistance. This was followed by a fatal second massive heart attack that same afternoon.

Erdős, who was born in Budapest, Hungary on 26 March 1913, received his Ph.D. from the University of Budapest in 1934. His posts included the Technion in Haifa, Israel, the University of Colorado, and the University of Budapest. He was also a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Erdős was best known as an international globe-trotting peripatetic mathematician who offered monetary awards for the solution of problems which he posed, and whose chief specialties were number theory and combinatorics. During his lifetime, he published over 1500 papers, and he worked at one time or another with some 460 collaborators or coauthors. Although Erdős did virtually no work specifically in logic, he did work on Ramsey theory in set-theoretic combinatorics. He also knew a number of interesting and important logicians, including in particular Kurt Gödel, and there are four anecdotes connected with or told by Erdős that are of especial interest to historians of logic.

The first anecdote concerns John von Neumann, who, Erdős opined in his interview with Gerald L. Alexanderson for *Mathematical People* [Alexanderson 1985, 84], ‘was very impressive to talk with. He was very quick.’ Erdős admitted that he did not know von Neumann’s work well, but knew that a number of younger mathematicians, with whom he had some contact, such as [Endre] Szemerédi and [Shaharon] Shelah, were following up on von