

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS

Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.
August 30–September 6, 1950

As already announced in the July, 1948, issue of this Bulletin, an International Congress of Mathematicians will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1950 under the auspices of the American Mathematical Society. The Society originally planned to act as host for a Congress in September, 1940, which was also scheduled to meet in Cambridge. Plans for the 1940 Congress were practically completed when the outbreak of World War II in September, 1939, made it necessary for the Society to postpone the Congress to a more favorable date.

The 1950 Congress will be the third International Congress of Mathematicians to be held on the continent of North America. The first was held at Northwestern University in 1893 and the second at the University of Toronto in 1924. International Congresses were held at intervals of approximately four years, except when war intervened, until 1936. There has been no international gathering of mathematicians since that time and it is the sincere hope of the Organizing Committee that the gathering in 1950 will be a truly international one, that American mathematicians will attend in large numbers, and that all other countries will be well represented. The Council of the American Mathematical Society has voted unanimously to hold a Congress to which mathematicians of all national and geographical groups will be invited.

Time and Place. The dates for the Congress have been fixed as August 30–September 6, 1950. Harvard University will be the principal host institution. A number of other institutions in metropolitan Boston will join in the entertainment of Congress visitors by arranging special features on their campuses. Mathematicians so desiring will be housed at a modest charge in the Harvard University dormitories and meals will be served in the University dining rooms. There will be accommodations for members of families, special provision being made for the care of children. Those who prefer to live in hotels can be comfortably provided for in Cambridge or Boston.

Organization. The Organizing Committee has invited more than a score of outstanding mathematicians to deliver stated addresses. There will be Conferences in four different fields; these are more fully described below. There will be seven Sections for the presentation of short contributed papers and by invitation of the Section Chairmen

there will be a small number of half-hour addresses as part of the Section programs.

In recent years mathematicians have been much impressed by the success of the conference method for presenting research in fields in which vigorous advances have just been made or are in progress. There will accordingly be a coordinated program of formal lectures and informal open discussion, and the stated addresses will be integrated as far as possible with the work of the Conferences. The following list of topics gives an indication of the nature of each of the Conferences:

Algebra (Chairman, A. A. Albert): 1, Groups and universal algebra; 2, Structure theory of rings and algebras; 3, Arithmetic algebra; 4, Algebraic geometry.

Analysis (Chairman, Marston Morse): 1, Algebraic tendencies in analysis; 2, Analysis and geometry in the large; 3, Extremal methods and geometric theory of functions of a complex variable.

Applied Mathematics (Chairman, John von Neumann): 1, Partial differential equations; 2, Statistical mechanics; 3, Random processes in physics and communication.

Topology (Chairman, Hassler Whitney): 1, Homology and homotopy theory; 2, Fibre bundles and obstructions; 3, Differentiable manifolds; 4, Topological groups.

The Sections for the presentation of short contributed papers will be as follows: I, Algebra and Theory of Numbers; II, Analysis; III, Geometry and Topology; IV, Probability and Statistics, Actuarial Science, Economics; V, Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics; VI, Logic and Philosophy; VII, History and Education. Each member of the Congress may present only one contributed paper and the time allotted for each paper will be ten minutes. Abstracts for such papers should not exceed 400 words in length and must be submitted on blanks which may be secured from the Secretary of the Congress. Abstracts must be in the hands of the Organizing Committee not later than May 15, 1950. The Organizing Committee has decided that contributed papers must be presented in person.

The official languages of the Congress are English, French, German, Italian, and Russian.

Entertainment. There will be many interesting entertainment features, including a reception, teas, a symphony concert, and a banquet.

Membership in the Congress. Membership in the Congress will be open to all qualified persons, whether they are able to be present in person or not. For regular members of the Congress the fee is \$15.00;

these persons will receive the Proceedings of the Congress and will be admitted without charge to the various entertainment functions mentioned above. Members of families, accompanying Congress members and not participating in the scientific meetings, may become associate members, for whom the fee is \$7.50; they will not present papers or receive the Proceedings, but will be entitled to many of the other privileges of membership. Only members and associate members of the Congress will have the privilege of residing in the Harvard dormitories.

Financial Support. Besides the support from Harvard University, generous subventions have been subscribed for the Congress by Bell Telephone Laboratories, Carnegie Corporation, General Electric Company, Institute for Advanced Study, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, National Research Council, Rockefeller Foundation, Standard Oil Development Company, and several private donors.

Committees.

Organizing Committee: Garrett Birkhoff (Chairman), W. T. Martin (Vice Chairman), A. A. Albert, J. L. Doob, G. C. Evans, T. H. Hildebrandt, Einar Hille, J. R. Kline, Solomon Lefschetz, Saunders MacLane, Marston Morse, John von Neumann, Oswald Veblen, J. L. Walsh, Hassler Whitney, D. V. Widder, R. L. Wilder.

Financial Committee: John von Neumann (Chairman), W. L. G. Williams (Vice Chairman), J. L. Coolidge, B. P. Gill, M. H. Ingraham, A. E. Meder, Jr.

Editorial Committee: L. M. Graves (Chairman), Einar Hille, P. A. Smith, Oscar Zariski.

Secretariat: J. R. Kline (Secretary), R. P. Boas (Associate Secretary).

Subcommittees of the Organizing Committee:

Budget Committee: W. T. Martin (Chairman), J. R. Kline, A. E. Meder, Jr., G. B. Price, Oswald Veblen, Oscar Zariski.

Cooperation Committee: Samuel Eilenberg (Chairman), E. F. Beckenbach, Hassler Whitney, S. S. Wilks, J. W. T. Youngs.

Entertainment Committee: L. H. Loomis (Chairman), C. R. Adams, Mrs. L. V. Ahlfors, Mrs. G. D. Birkhoff, J. A. Clarkson, Mrs. W. C. Graustein, F. B. Hildebrand, J. R. Kline, E. R. Lorch, Mrs. W. T. Martin, E. B. Mode, G. A. O'Donnell, Mrs. H. B. Phillips, Helen G. Russell, J. H. Van Vleck, Mrs. J. L. Walsh, Mrs. D. V. Widder, Mrs. Norbert Wiener.

Program Committee: E. G. Begle (Chairman), A. A. Albert, Garrett Birkhoff, R. P. Boas, Richard Courant, J. L. Doob, Samuel Eilen-

berg, G. C. Evans, J. R. Kline, L. H. Loomis, Marston Morse, John von Neumann, C. V. Newsom, H. A. Rademacher, Alfred Tarski, Hassler Whitney.

Publicity Committee: R. P. Boas and G. W. Mackey (Co-chairmen), A. A. Bennett, J. A. Clarkson, C. O. Oakley, R. M. Thrall.

Committee on Transportation Grants: Garrett Birkhoff (Chairman), Samuel Eilenberg, J. R. Kline, W. T. Martin, J. L. Walsh.

Committee on Conference in Algebra: A. A. Albert (Chairman), Richard Brauer, Nathan Jacobson, Saunders MacLane, Oscar Zariski.

Committee on Conference in Analysis: Marston Morse (Chairman), L. V. Ahlfors, Salomon Bochner, G. C. Evans, Einar Hille.

Committee on Conference in Applied Mathematics: John von Neumann (Chairman), Walter Bartky, R. V. Churchill, Richard Courant, G. C. Evans, William Prager, Mina Rees.

Committee on Conference in Topology: Hassler Whitney (Chairman), Deane Montgomery, N. E. Steenrod.

Chairmen of Sections:

Section I, Algebra and Theory of Numbers: H. A. Rademacher.

Section II, Analysis: G. C. Evans.

Section III, Geometry and Topology: Samuel Eilenberg.

Section IV, Probability and Statistics, Actuarial Science, Economics: J. L. Doob.

Section V, Mathematical Physics and Applied Mathematics: Richard Courant.

Section VI, Logic and Philosophy: Alfred Tarski.

Section VII, History and Education: C. V. Newsom.