MATHEMATICS AND WAR

International Scientific Meeting

Karlskrona (Sweden), August 29-31 2002

N. Tartaglia, Nova Scientia, Venice 1537, Frontispiece

Topics:

1. Military traces in the history of mathematics and in present day mathematics.

2. Changes in the character of warfare under the influence of mathematical theory and mathematically supported technology.

3. Ethical and social aspects of the interaction between mathematics and the military.

Purpose

Mathematics has for centuries been stimulated, financed and credited by military purposes. Som mathematical thoughts and mathematical technology have also been vital in war. During World War II mathematical work by the Anti-Hitler coalition was part of an aspiration to serve humanity and not help destroy it. At present, it is not an easy task to view the bellicose potentials of mathematics in a proper perspective.

At the conference, we will present historical evidence and recent changes in the interaction between mathematics and the military. In particular, we will discuss the new mathematically enhanced development of military technology which seems to have changed the very character of modern warfare.

Speakers will include historians of mathematics, science and engineering, historians of war, military analysts and philosophers.

Organisers

Maurice de Gosson (Mathematician, Karlskrona, Sweden), Reiner Braun (Director, Dortmund, Germany), Stig Andur Pedersen (Philosopher, Roskilde, Denmark).

Advisory Board

Akira Asada (Mathematician, Osaka, Japan), Wolfgang Coy (Computer Scientist, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany), Sergei Demidov (Mathematics Historian, Moscow University, Russia), Tinne Hoff Kjeldsen (Mathematics Historian, Roskilde, Denmark, p.t. Pasadena, U.S.A.), Matthias Kreck (Mathematician, Heidelberg, Germany), Lee Lorch (Mathematician, Toronto, Canada), Armin Tenner (Physicist, Amsterdam, Netherlands), Paola Valero (Researcher on Mathematics Education, Bogota, Colombia, p.t. Aalborg, Denmark).

Format

There will be invited lectures and ample time for discussions opened by invited comments by respondents. The lectures, major points of the discussion, and introductory material to the subject will be published afterwards.

The Meeting is open subject to registration. It is supported by the Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH), the Danish Network for History and Philosophy of Mathematics (MATHNET), and the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility(INES).

Place

The meeting will be held at the Karlskrona Campus Annebo of the University of Karlskrona-Ronneby in the scenic historical military port and now IT centre Karlskrona (South-East of Sweden). Official conference hotel is Hotel Conrad. Low-rate student accomodation will be available.

Registration

Please register via e-mail to cdg@bth.se, or via ordinary mail to

> Blekinge Institute of Technology
> Department of Mathematics
> Conference "Math and War"
> att. Charlyne de Gosson
> S-37179 Karlskrona
> Sweden
> Fax: +46 455 38 54 07

Please notify in your registration if you want us to book accommodation at Hotel Conrad or student accommodation.

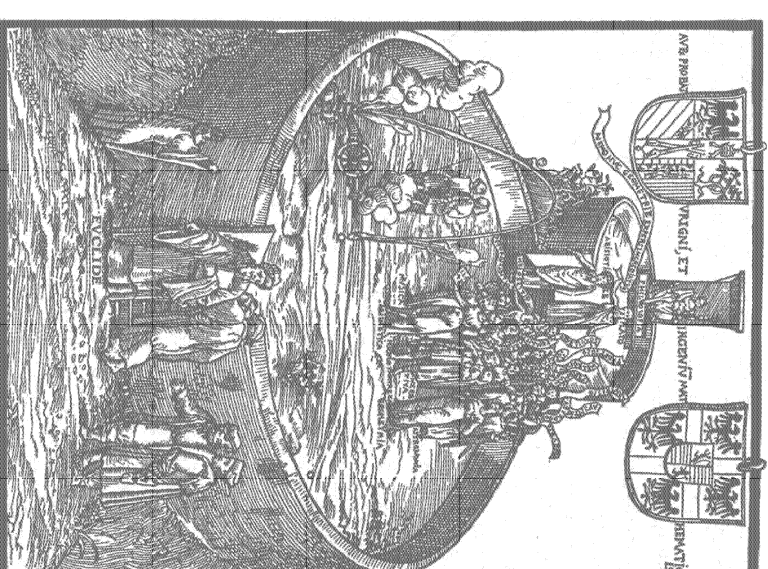The registration deadline is August 1, 2002. The registration fee is SKR 500. Students do not pay a fee.

For more information see our webpage at

`http://mmf.ruc.dk/~booss/mathwar/`