

the Second World War he moved to America where he obtained a position at Brown University, where there was an excellent library on the history of mathematics established by R. C. Archibald. The move to Brown University was assisted by R. G. D. Richardson, who was the secretary of the American Mathematical Society and dean of the graduate school at Brown University and was very supportive of another of Neugebauer's activities: the establishing of *Mathematical Reviews*, which appeared for the first time in 1940. Neugebauer had previously become the founding editor of the review journal *Zentralblatt für Mathematik und ihre Grenzgebiete* in 1931 but refused to submit to the restrictions the Nazi regime had sought to impose.

Neugebauer's achievements after the war include the publication *Mathematical Cuneiform Texts* (1945), which for many years was the standard account of Mesopotamian mathematics, his most popular book *The Exact Sciences in Antiquity* (1951, 2nd ed. 1957) and the three-volume *Astronomical Cuneiform Texts*, which was finally published in 1955. He then worked on yet another definitive three-volume project *A History of Ancient Mathematical Astronomy* (1975), which was the first publication in Springer's *Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences*. He was also able to create at Brown the leading research centre into ancient science and mathematics, where Abraham Sachs, Richard Parker, Gerald Toomer and David Pingree also worked for many years.

Neugebauer was the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and academic awards. He died on 19 February 1990.

For the first award the prize committee will be chaired by Jeremy Gray (Open University, England) and will consist of Lennart Berggren (Simon Fraser University, Canada), Jesper Lützen (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Jeanne Peiffer (CNRS, France) and Catriona Byrne of Springer.

The right to nominate one or several laureates is open to anyone. Nominations are confidential; a nomination should not be made known to the nominee(s). Self-nominations are not acceptable.

A nomination letter should be addressed to the EMS office at Helsinki and received by the office during the year before the European Congress of Mathematics. It should contain a CV and a description of the candidate's work motivating the nomination, together with names of specialists who may be contacted. A call for nominations will appear in the Newsletter and on the webpage of the EMS no later than a year before the congress.

Note

Information about Otto Neugebauer was drawn from *Otto E. Neugebauer May 26, 1899-February 19, 1990* by N. M. Swerdlow (<http://www.mat.ufmg.br/~portosil/neugebau.html>), which in turn was based on his article in the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* (1993, vol. 137, 139–65).

The workshop on “Raising the Public Awareness of Mathematics” in Óbidos (Portugal)

Erhard Behrends (Berlin)

Óbidos is a charming town situated one hour by car to the north of Lisbon, Portugal. In the “International Year of Mathematics 2010” (WMY2000) it was the site of the creation of the international exhibition “Beyond the Third Dimension” (<http://alem3d.obidos.org/en/>) and of a meeting of the EMS WMY2000 Committee. This committee launched the CD-ROM “Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics” in the framework of an EC project.

This year Óbidos again hosted an international workshop: “Raising the Public Awareness of Mathematics” (organisers: E. Behrends, Berlin; N. Crato, Lisbon; J. F. Rodrigues, Lisbon; see <http://c2.glocos.org/index.php/RPAM/rpam2010>).

The opening was on 26 September 2010; it took place in connection with a “mathematical afternoon” organised by the Portuguese Mathematical Society (SPM) in coop-

eration with the town of Óbidos. At this event mathematical films and lectures for the general public were presented. One of these lectures was given by G.-M. Greuel, the current president of ERCOM (the EMS committee of the European Research Centres on Mathematics) and the other was given by H. Leitão about mathematics in the Age of Discoveries.

Later, one could participate in a reception for an itinerant mathematical exhibition (“Medir o Tempo, o Mundo, o Mar”) on the use of geometry to measure the universe and help astronomical navigation, jointly organised by the SPM and the Museum of Science of the University of Lisbon. The exhibition and reception took place at a local art gallery.

Also, on the occasion of this public awareness event, the website www.mathematics-in-europe.eu of the EMS

was “officially” launched. And the fact that many members of the EMS/RPA committee were present in Óbidos was used to discuss in a separate meeting the next steps in connection with the realisation of this website.

“Raising the Public Awareness of Mathematics” was a joint initiative of the CIM (Centro Internacional de Matemática, Portugal) and the rpa (“raising public awareness”) committee of the EMS. About 40 participants from Europe and the USA attended the workshop. In more than 30 lectures, information concerning various rpa activities was presented. Four aspects were of particular importance:

1. National experiences

In and after the “International Year of Mathematics 2000” several European countries have realised extensive rpa projects that were described in a number of lectures. As examples we mention the talks of Reinhard Laubenbacher (USA, “Mathematics and the public in the USA”) and Thomas Vogt (Germany, “Public Understanding of Math – Communicating Mathematics to Society at Large in Germany”).

2. Exhibitions / Mathematical Museums

Over the last few years there have been realised a number of (temporary or permanent) mathematical exhibitions. The experiences of the organisers were presented, e.g. the very successful project “Imaginary” was described by several participants and the structure of some large exhibitions in Germany (“Mathema”, “Mathematicum”), Italy (“Giardino di Archimede”) and Portugal (“Atractor”) was explained by the organisers.

3. Popularisation activities

The large variety of rpa projects that have been realised in the various countries was really impressive: films, popular websites, rpa using computer games or the history of mathematics. Surprisingly most of these activities were unknown to the majority of participants until this workshop.

4. Popularisation: why and how?

A number of talks were of a more “fundamental” character. The contribution of Maria Dedó, for example, mirrored the experiences of the majority of participants: “To be rigorous – when is it appropriate and when is it only pedantry?” There is a rather narrow area of “exactness” between accessibility for a general audience and a precision that meets the professional standards

It should be noted that the results of this workshop will be published in a book: *Raising Public Awareness of Mathematics* (Springer, 2011). Everyone who wants to realise rpa projects in the future is invited to profit from the experience of the experts who met in Óbidos.

Here is the complete list of lectures:

- 1 Ehrhard Behrends (Freie-Universität Berlin, Germany): MATHEMA (<http://www.mathema-ausstellung.de/en.html>).
- 2 Albrecht Beutelspacher (Universität Giessen, Ger-



Participants of the workshop “Public Awareness in Mathematics” in Óbidos

- many): Mathematikum in Giessen, Germany – The success story of a mathematical science center.
- 3 Jean Pierre Bourguignon (Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques, France): Raising Public Awareness – Discussing some Recent Initiatives in France.
- 4 F. Thomas Bruss (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium): Public Awareness of Mathematics – Image, Influence and Importance.
- 5 Franka Brückler (University of Zagreb, Croatia): The maximum principle in popularisation of mathematics – maximum effect with minimum costs.
- 6 Jorge Buescu (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal): The Importance of Useful Mathematics.
- 7 Mireille Chaleyat-Maurel (Université de Paris 5, France): World Mathematical Year 2000 – ten years on...
- 8 Manuel Arala Chaves (Universidade do Porto, Portugal): Atractor – examples of «interactive mathematics».
- 9 Krzysztof Ciesielski (Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland): The beauty of topology and a magic room.
- 10 Barry Cipra (Northfield, Minnesota, USA): WWMD?
- 11 Nuno Crato (ISEG-Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal), Renata Ramalho (Sociedade Portuguesa de Matemática): Balancing math popularization with public intervention: A mathematical society continued effort for raising public awareness in mathematics and youth mathematical education.
- 12 Maria Dedó (Università degli Studi di Milano, Italia): To be rigorous – when is it appropriate and when is it only pedantry?
- 13 Jean-Paul Delahaye (Université de Lille, France): From (some) computer games to mathematics.
- 14 Ana M Eiró (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal): Engaging the public in Mathematics in a historical environment.
- 15 João Fernandes (Universidade de Coimbra, Portu-



Meeting of the EMS/RPA committee at the occasion of this workshop

- gal): Raising the Public Awareness in Mathematics: how Astronomy can be useful?
- 16 Carlos Fiolhais (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal): Physics and Mathematics outreach – do they need to split in science communications?
 - 17 Enrico Giusti (Università degli Studi di Firenze, Italia): Playing with mathematics: “Il Giardino di Archimede”.
 - 18 Gert-Martin Greuel: (University of Kaiserslautern and MFOberwolfach) IMAGINARY – Mathematical Creations and Experiences.
 - 19 Vagn Lundsgaard Hansen (Technical University of Denmark): Keeping Mathematical Awareness Alive.
 - 20 Wolfram Koepf (Universität Kassel, Germany): The German website www.mathematik.de.
 - 21 Reinhard Laubenbacher (Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA): Mathematics and the public in the U.S.A.
 - 22 Thibaut Lery (European Science Foundation, France): Bringing the mathematical communities forward, a European perspective.
 - 23 António Machiavelo (Universidade do Porto, Portugal): The Importance of Useless Mathematics.
 - 24 Steen Markvorsen (Technical University of Denmark): From PA(X) to RPAM(X)
 - 25 Andreas Daniel Matt (Mathematisches Forschungsinstitut Oberwolfach, Germany): IMAGINARY – How to set up a traveling math exhibition.
 - 26 Yasser Omar (ISEG-Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, Portugal): Short presentation of NGO SiW – Scientists in the World.
 - 27 Konrad Polthier (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): A Mathematical Picturebook.
 - 28 José Francisco Rodrigues (Centro Internacional de Matemática, Portugal): RPAM in research centers and institutes?
 - 29 Jorge Nuno Silva (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal): Matemática em Acção.
 - 30 Carlota Simões (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal): The project “Playing with Science”: Mathematics and interdisciplinarity.
 - 31 John M Sullivan (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany): Mathematical pictures: visualization, art and outreach.
 - 32 Raul Ibañez Torres (Universidad del País Vasco, Spain): Butterfly effect and Popularization of Mathematics: Spanish case.
 - 33 Thomas Vogt (Technische Universität Berlin, Germany): Public Understanding of Math – Communicating Mathematics to Society at Large in Germany.
 - 34 Robin Wilson (Open University, UK): RPA in Britain – three case studies.
 - 35 Sebastià Xambó (Universidad Politècnica Cataluña, Spain): RSME – IMAGINARY