

<b>Zeitschrift:</b>	L'Enseignement Mathématique
<b>Herausgeber:</b>	Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
<b>Band:</b>	23 (1977)
<b>Heft:</b>	1-2: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE
<b>Kapitel:</b>	ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION ABOUT AN ICMI-SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS, HELSINKI, AUGUST 1978, ON THE FOLLOWING THEME:

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 25.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE  
DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION ABOUT AN ICMI-SYMPORIUM TO BE HELD AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MATHEMATICIANS, HELSINKI, AUGUST 1978, ON THE FOLLOWING

THEME:

*The Education of Mathematics Teachers (Pre- and In-Service) : What Knowledge, Experience and Understanding of Mathematics should a Mathematics Teacher have ?*

Many mathematicians are professionally involved in the pre- and in-service education of mathematics teachers. This involvement includes preparation and teaching of courses, evaluation of students and programmes, planning and holding of seminars, work on committees and in conferences related to education of mathematics teachers.

There is universal agreement that the teacher of mathematics should have mathematical competence. In particular he should have adequate background-knowledge and experience with respect to the mathematics taught at school. This implies that specific parts of applied mathematics and problem-solving activities should be indispensable components of the educational programme in addition to basic instruction in pure mathematics.

It is expected that through his education the mathematics teacher has developed the ability to analyse elementary mathematics from an advanced point of view and has gained the flexibility necessary for representing mathematics at various levels and by a variety of approaches. It is a matter of debate whether special courses are needed to further this expected competence and how such courses should be related to methods courses and other training components in the area of pedagogy and psychology of mathematics teaching and learning.

Also there is an increasing consensus that the teacher of mathematics should have a balanced view of philosophical problems related to mathematics, and of the role of mathematics in culture and society. Curriculum

decisions and even teaching methods are highly influenced by preoccupations and attitudes linked to these themes, and corresponding misconceptions on the part of teachers are often unintended side effects of the standard mathematical training. This calls for an integration of foundational, historical and sociological aspects of mathematics into the educational programme.

It is an important task for all those who are involved in the mathematical education of mathematics teachers to clarify — for the various teaching levels — what knowledge, experience and understanding of mathematics a mathematics teacher should have. An International Congress of Mathematicians brings together experts from all countries who are most competent to discuss this problem. This is why the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction, a body established by the International Mathematical Union, has chosen the Mathematical Education of Mathematics Teachers as the theme of a symposium during the next ICM to be held at Helsinki, August 1978. An International Programme Committee is being established chaired by the two Vice-Presidents of ICMI, Professor Christiansen and Professor Steiner. Anyone interested in participating in the Symposium is kindly asked to contact either of the cochairs, who will also appreciate to receive suggestions regarding the programme of the Symposium.

On behalf of ICMI

S. Iyanaga

President of ICMI

Professor Bent Christiansen

Department of Mathematics  
Royal Danish School  
of Educational Studies  
Emdrupvej 101  
DK 2400 Copenhagen NV  
Denmark

Professor, Dr. H.-G. Steiner

Institut für Didaktik  
der Mathematik  
Universität Bielefeld  
Postfach 8640  
D 4800, Bielefeld 1  
Federal Republic of Germany