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- In our society, we communicate by using images: television, computer, posters and so on.
- Mathematics was born and developed in a social context. Many people have used it.
- Interpret the attached picture, i.e. look at the people in the picture and describe what you think they are doing. Examine the context and the details; try to use your mathematical knowledge.

What makes this task interesting is the fact that it focuses on a particular aspect of the history of mathematics, i.e. the charm and the informative value of the illustrations in antique historical sources. The central idea in the experiment is to use historical iconography for stimulating students' reflection on mathematical activity and its relation with social life. The report of the experiment was presented at a conference, see [7]. When I read this report it was natural for me to link the author's inspiration with something that the late John Fauvel liked a lot, e.g. the iconography in ancient mathematical books. The enjoyment in this aspect of history emerges in the ICMI Study book. It is moving for me to see in a teacher's work a tangible and spontaneous sign of Fauvel's cultural heritage.

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