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CIRCULAR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF MATHEMATICAL INSTRUCTION ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL SUB-COMMITTEES

The International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (I.C.M.I.) will from now on be set up according to the decisions taken by the General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union (I.M.U.), which met at The Hague, September 1st, 1954.

The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I. was held in Geneva on July 2nd, 1955. The minutes of the meeting have been forwarded to the National Sub-Commissions.

The following people have been elected to fill the presidential and secretarial posts in the International Commission from January 1st, 1955 to December 31st, 1958.

President:	Professor BEHNKE, University of Münster-Westfalen (Germany).
Vice-Presidents:	Professor KUREPA, University of Zagreb (Yugoslavia).
	Professor STONE, University of Chicago (U.S.A.).
Secretary:	Mr. DESFORGE, Inspecteur général de l'Instruction Publique, Paris (France).

I. *Relationship between the I.C.M.I. and the National Sub-Commissions.*

The Office wishes to point out that the work and activities of the I.C.M.I. cannot be effective unless it is assisted by the National Sub-Committees which alone can compile information and undertake research on mathematical instruction at all

levels. It is, therefore, most important that the National Sub-Committees get in touch and remain in frequent correspondence with the I.C.M.I. in order to present suggestions or to point out questions and problems which may be of general interest and could be studied.

II. *Working Programme for 1955-1958.*

During the reunion of the Executive Committee in Geneva, a working program was discussed and drawn up for the period 1955-1958. Three items have been chosen and will be the subjects of the reports at the International Congress at Edinburgh in 1958. These subjects are:

i) Mathematical instruction up to the age of fifteen years (this study is connected with the survey on mathematical instruction between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one, which was started by the 1954 Congress in Amsterdam).

ii) The scientific basis of mathematics in secondary school teaching.

iii) A comparative study of the methods used in the initiation to geometry.

The National Sub-Committees are requested to participate in the study of these three questions, so that the information put forward at Edinburgh will cover various points of view and different opinions, thus allowing the drawing of comparisons and pointing out similarities.

The National Sub-Committees are advised to start work as soon as possible and make arrangement between each other for any cooperation they may need on any of the subjects. The Office requests the National Sub-Committees to let it know before May 1st, 1956, what their intentions are as far as their participation in the three surveys is concerned. Wherever possible, they are to add a short draft of each of the reports they intend to send in, and the names of the rapporteurs chosen.

III. *The Congress organised by India for 1956.*

A Congress organised by India, and which will deal with the teaching of the sciences, will be held in Bombay during Feb-

ruary 1956. Professor STONE has been nominated I.C.M.I. delegate to this Congress.

For this occasion the Indian Sub-Committee would very much like a detailed documentation on mathematical instruction in the various countries. To grant this wish the National Sub-Committees are asked to forward to the Indian Sub-Committee the programmes, the curriculum and miscellaneous publications on this subject. The information should be sent as soon as possible and addressed to:

Ram BEHARI,
Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics,
University of Delhi,
DELHI (India).

IV. *Official Organ of the I.C.M.I.*

During the meeting on July 2nd, 1955, the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I. confirmed that the review *L'Enseignement Mathématique* (Secrétariat de la Rédaction à l'Institut de Mathématiques de l'Université de Genève—Switzerland) was the official organ of the International Commission.

A short account of this review has been added to this circular. The Office requests the National Sub-Committees to do all they can to answer the appeal made to them.

V. *Collection of teaching hand-books.*

The National Sub-Committees are requested to complete the collection of text-books and documents dealing with the teaching of mathematics in secondary school establishments. The collection had been made for the Amsterdam Congress. All those who are interested should apply to:

M. CARDOT,
Centre National de Documentation Pédagogique,
Musée Pédagogique,
29, Rue d'Ulm,
Paris V^{e} (France).

VI. *A meeting of the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I.* will be held in Münster—Westfalen, on May 23rd, at ten o'clock.

This meeting will be held in conjunction with:

i) A meeting of the German Sub-Committee dealing with the surveys mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2. All the members of the I.C.M.I. and the Sub-Commissions are invited.

ii) The meeting on " Zur Pflege des Zusammenhangs von Universität und Schule ", organised by the University of Münster. The programmes of this meeting will be forwarded on request from the month of April onwards.

Those interested should apply to the Office of the President Mr. BEHNKE, Münster—Westfalen.

VII. *All correspondence to the I.C.M.I.* should be addressed to its president:

Professor Dr. BEHNKE,
Mathematisches Institut des Universität Münster,
Schlossplatz 2,
Münster—Westfalen
Germany

January 23rd, 1956.

J. DESFORGE. H. BEHNKE.

THE REVIEW " L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE "

At its reunion of 2nd July 1955, held at Geneva, the Executive Committee of the I.C.M.I. decided that the review *L'Enseignement Mathématique* was to be considered the official organ of the Commission.

The first series of *L'Enseignement Mathématique* has just ended with the publication of the volume XL. The new series is expected to appear soon. This second series will be devoted to the reform and development of mathematical instruction; it will publish articles focusing on and explaining modern theories