

Editorial

I am very glad that the eighth volume of SCIAMVS is ready now. Until recently we were not quite sure whether we could publish it by the end of the year. After we published the seventh volume several good articles were submitted to us, but we could not accept them because they did not offer new original source materials. It was only in July and September that we received the articles of Sidoli-Berggren and Burnett *et. al.*, respectively. Since the two articles combined were long enough to make one volume, we started editorial work. Then, in early November, we received another precious piece written by Huber and Steele.

All these articles offered historically very important original materials in Accadian, Arabic, and Latin, with English translations and commentaries, thus being the kind of material that we envisaged for this periodical. But we had to go through the due process of asking for the judgement of referees who were specialists in the subject matter, as well as the languages concerned, of the articles. Another problem was the length of the papers and shortage of remaining time. The referees of the two articles were expected to read about 100 pages each, of which the essential part was either Arabic or Latin text. For the referees of the third article, the time was quite limited.

However, all our referees were amazingly cooperative and they gave us very quick responses. Especially I thank one of the referees of Sidoli-Berggren's article. He read the Arabic text as carefully as the authors themselves and gave them very useful suggestions for correction and improvement.

This time the volume consists of only three articles. We do not mind at all such small number of contributions. What is important is only offering the original source materials for the history of exact sciences in Antiquity and the Middle Ages. Thus in an extreme case, we would be willing to publish even one article in one volume. I hope the reader of this journal remembers our editorial principle and does not hesitate to submit a long article which might be an essential source of future scholarship.

Michio Yano
Kyoto
December 16, 2007

Postscript

As this volume was going to press we heard the sad news that Hubertus L. L. Busard had died (21 August 1923 to 2 December 2007). His work is exactly the kind that we would have been very pleased to include in our journal. He devoted his entire academic life to editing Latin mathematical works, from the *Questiones super geometriam Euclidis* of Nicole Oresme, which was his PhD thesis (1961) to Campanus of Novara's version of Euclid's *Elements*. A Festschrift which was presented to him on his 70th birthday in 1993, summarised his career and gave a list of his publications up to that date (*Vestigia mathematica: Studies in medieval and early modern mathematics in honour of H.L.L. Busard*, eds M. Folkerts and J.P. Hogendijk, Amsterdam and Atlanta GA, 1993). Whilst he edited texts belonging to several genres of mathematics, he made the Latin Euclid the focus of his attention (just as Marshall Clagett, who died on October 21, 2005, had made the Latin Archimedes *his* focus). He edited all the medieval translations of the *Elements*, whether made from Greek or from Arabic, and several of the Latin texts which derived from these translations, the last and most influential being that of Campanus which he completed two years before his death. In his last years he was engaged in writing a history of mathematics in the Middle Ages which would draw on his many editions and his knowledge of numerous mathematical manuscripts. It is hoped that this work will be completed by his collaborator, Menso Folkerts, and will serve as a monument to what can be accomplished through the close and comprehensive study of primary source materials.

Charles Burnett
London
December 17, 2007