

OBITUARY

Dr. Robert Charles Geary

Dr. Roy Geary, who died on February 8th, 1983, at the age of 86, was one of Ireland's most distinguished statisticians. He was the first director of the Economic Research Institute, later the Economic and Social Research Institute. As a civil servant he founded the Central Statistics Office and he also held senior appointments in the United Nations in New York.

For a time he was also visiting lecturer at Cambridge University. He addressed numerous economic and statistical conferences all over the world and published a great number of papers. Dr. Geary was an honorary fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, the American Statistical Association and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. He was also elected president of the International Statistical Institute and chairman of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth.

He had been engaged in the collection of Irish official statistics from 1923 and was responsible for inaugurating many new inquiries which have since become standard. When he retired as director of the Central Statistics Office in 1957 he became chief of the national accounts branch of the United Nations Statistical Office.

In 1960 he returned to become the first director of what was to become the Economic and Social Research Institute, and on his retirement as director, the institute honoured him by inaugurating the annual Geary Lecture which has attracted many of the most distinguished social scientists in the world to lecture in Ireland.

He held doctorates from the National University, Dublin University and Queen's University in Belfast. In 1981 the Royal Dublin Society awarded him the prestigious Boyle Medal for Science.

D. Hurley

IRISH MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY

Notice of Ordinary Meeting

An Ordinary Meeting of the Society will be held on Thursday 31st March, 1983, at 12.15 pm. The venue is the Dublin Institute For Advanced Studies, 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4.

The agenda will include a discussion and vote on the following motion:

"That the Irish Mathematical Society abandon the idea of giving a prize for outstanding papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy".

If this motion is not passed, it will be proposed that the prize be awarded in the manner suggested by the Subcommittee. The report of the Subcommittee is given below.

Report on Proposed Prize Based on Papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy

At Christmas, 1981, the Society set up a committee to consider ways in which a prize could be awarded. The committee sought information from the London Mathematical Society and other sources. The advice that came back, couched in the strongest terms, was that the amount of trouble and effort is out of proportion to the benefits. An interim report along these lines at Easter, 1982, was rejected by the Society, at an Ordinary Meeting, and the committee was charged to consider procedures. At Christmas, 1982, the committee proposed that, if a prize is to be established, then a system along the following lines be used:

1. That at most one prize be awarded per annum, and then

only to exceptional papers.

2. The prize should be restricted to mathematicians under 35 years of age who are Irish or based in Ireland.
3. A committee should be established to look at papers at the end of each year, and make a recommendation. The committee could arrange to get referees reports and analyses of papers.

At the next Ordinary Meeting, at Easter, the Society will discuss whether or not to proceed.

Anthony G. O'Farrell

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting Held at 12.15 on December 21st 1982, in DIAS

1. There were 22 members present. Since the President, J.J.H. Miller was absent due to illness, it was agreed that D.J. Simms would chair the meeting. The minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting on April 7th, 1982, were read and signed.
2. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, which were reproduced in the Newsletter, were taken as read.
3. A motion proposed by the committee to change the constitution to increase the size of the committee by two members, was passed. (It must be passed again at the next ordinary meeting before it takes effect)
4. The following officers and committee members were nominated and elected without a vote:

President	A.G. O'Farrell (2 years, to Dec. 1984)
Vice-President	F. Holland (2 years, 2nd term, to Dec. 1984)
Secretary	R.M. Timoney (1 year, to Dec. 1983)

Treasurer	G. Enright (1 year, to Dec. 1983)
Committee	M. Clancy) J. Hannah) (2 years, to Dec. 1984) P. Boland)

R. Bates, D. Hurley and M. Stynes continue on the committee until December 1983.

5. There was a discussion on the notice of the election given to members. The committee agreed to consider this and the possibility of a postal ballot.
6. T. Laffey reported on behalf of the sub-committee on the awarding of a prize that
 - (i) On the basis of advice from other mathematical societies the sub-committee was not in favour of having a prize at all.
 - (ii) If a prize is to be founded it should be for the best paper by an Irish Mathematician or Mathematician based in Ireland in the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy.
 - (iii) The prize should be restricted to Mathematicians under 35 and should only be awarded for an exceptionally good paper. The committee of the IMS should set up a jury to award the prize who would, in turn, solicit referees' reports if necessary.

A motion that

- "(a) the report of the sub-committee should be published in the Newsletter, and
- (b) the next ordinary meeting of the Irish Mathematical Society would decide whether or not to proceed with the prize".

was passed after a vote. Another motion to go ahead with awarding the prize was defeated.

7. The meeting discussed the cases of Mathematicians J.L. Massera (Uruguay) and Victor Kipnis (USSR). The Secretary reported that he had, on the instructions of the committee, written to the organisers of the campaign for Massera to add the IMS to their list of supporters. This action was endorsed by the meeting. A collection was taken for the Massera campaign. The meeting passed the following motion:

"The IMS is concerned about J.L. Massera and V. Kipnis and supports the committee in whatever steps it considers necessary such as writing to the appropriate embassies and to relevant organisations".

8. R. Bates mentioned that the IMS might be able to take over the functions of the Irish Mechanics Group.

R. Timoney (Secretary)

Membership

Subscriptions for 1983 are now due from individual members. Fees, which are still just £3.50 per person, should be forwarded to the Treasurer as soon as possible.

Members, who are not already paying by Bankers' Order, might consider using this convenient method. Forms are available from the Treasurer.

Overseas members, who wish to pay in foreign currency, are asked to send the equivalent of IR£4.00 to allow for conversion costs.

All members are asked to encourage colleagues to join the Society in order to support Irish mathematical activities. You might also encourage your Department to become an Institutional Member.

Arrears are still being taken from members who forgot to renew in 1982. Your co-operation in getting fees collected quickly this year will be appreciated.

Remember: your £3.50 includes a year's supply of our new improved Newsletter.

G.M. Enright (Treasurer)

Institutional Members of the Irish Mathematical Society

National Board for Science and Technology
National Institute for Higher Education, Limerick
New University of Ulster, Coleraine
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
University College, Dublin

PERSONAL ITEMS

Dr. P.D. Bourke of the Statistics Department, U.C.C. has been promoted to Statutory Lecturer.

Dr. R. Harte of the Mathematics Department, U.C.C. has been promoted to Associate Professor.

Dr. P. Hogan of the Mathematical Physics Department, U.C.D. is visiting the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Warsaw, Poland, for two weeks during March.

Dr. D. Lewis of the Mathematics Department, U.C.D. is visiting the Department of Mathematical Sciences at McMaster University, Ontario, Canada, during the month of March.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

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^ SUMMARY OF RESULTS
OF
1982 IRISH NATIONAL MATHEMATICS CONTEST

The Fourth Irish National Mathematics Contest was held on Tuesday, March 9, 1982 and attracted 1,539 entries from 77 schools. The total represents a decrease of about 150 contestants from 1981. This is possibly accounted for by the increase in fee and the difficulty of the 1980 and 1981 Contests which may have deterred some schools from participating this year.

The results to hand indicate that the 1982 Contest was more difficult than the 1981 edition. The number of those who scored 80 or more was 26 - and includes 5 girls - as against 45 in 1981; the average mark for the top scorers was 84.9 versus 85.4 in 1981. These statistics are in line with those that were compiled from the results obtained by 418,009 contestants from 6,623 schools in the United States, Canada and American schools abroad: only 221 of these scored 100 marks or more as against 269 in 1981, when 422,231 students competed; of the 221, two actually achieved 145, the highest score recorded.

The highest score achieved so far by an Irish student was returned this year by our winner David Donnelly, who scored 115. David and the next four top scorers were each presented with prizes, for instance, David was given a ZX81 computer, at a reception held in U.C.D. on December 3, 1982.

The top five contestants were

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Score</u>
David A. Donnelly	St. Michael's College, Omeath, Co. Louth.	115
Barry E. Ambrose	Presentation College, Western Road, Cork.	92

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Score</u>
Chris J. Stenson	O'Connell Schools, Dublin 1.	89
Peter J. Johnston	Coleraine Academical Institution, 88 Coleraine, Co. Londonderry.	88
Patrick J. Gaffney	Christian Brothers College, St. Patrick's Place, Cork	88

This year the Contest was sponsored by the Bank of Ireland and the National Board of Science and Technology as well as the Irish Mathematical Society and the Irish Mathematics Teachers Association, both of whom have supported the Contest from the start. It is a pleasure to record our thanks to these bodies, without whose help and interest the project would fail.

F. Holland