

Welcome to the *Opusculus*

By Erik Tou

As a number theorist, I'm somewhat saddened to see Euler's 300th birthday receding into the past. At least 300 was an elegant number; our upcoming Euler anniversaries are 302, 303, 304 and 305, none of which is quite as nice (or prime, for that matter).

But from a practical standpoint, the tercentenary was a boon to the world of Euler scholarship. Membership and conference attendance are both healthy, and the future is bright for the Euler Society.

The *Opusculus* is one small part of this new vigor,

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2009 Euler Society Conference

The Euler Society's annual conference will be held from July 12 to July 15 at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI. Registration fees are payable in person at the conference, either by check or in cash. The fee is yet to be determined, but is expected to be in the neighborhood of US\$100.

As always, we encourage that papers be relevant to Euler's life and work, including Euler's contributions to mathematics, science, technology, philosophy, religion or education. However, papers related tangentially to Euler's life, times, or work are also welcome. Papers may be of two lengths: the short format is 20 minutes, with 5 minutes for questions; The long format is 50 minutes, also with 5 minutes for questions.

If you would like to attend, please contact Ed Sandifer at 3 Juniper Road, Newtown, CT 06470, or by e-mail at esandifer@earthlink.net. If you plan to give a presentation, please send proposals, including title and abstract, along with your name and contact information, to Ed Sandifer. For accommodations, contact the Roger Williams University Conference Center at (401) 254-7300; be sure to identify yourself as an attendee of the conference.

Proposals are due by May 15, 2009.



Euler 2K+8. Conference attendees gather at Rob Bradley and Susan Petry's house for respite, repast, and refreshments. Front (L to R): Erik Tou, Ken Gittelsohn, Rob Bradley, Dominic Klyve, Dieter Suisky, Susan Petry, Charles Rocca, John Glaus. Back: Amy Davis, Ed Sandifer, Rüdiger Thiele, Larry D'Antonio, Lee Stemkoski.

The Euler Line

*Dispatches from the world of
Euler scholarship*



On the Euler Line this issue:
recent books and biographical
works.

Euler's Gem: The Polyhedron Formula and the Birth of Topology, by David Richeson. This book chronicles the history of topology, beginning with the Euler formula's complex past and continuing to more contemporary work.

Leonhard Euler and His Friends, translated by John Glaus. This is the first English translation of Louis-Gustave Du Pasquier's French original, *Euler et ses amis*. It is available on Amazon.com.

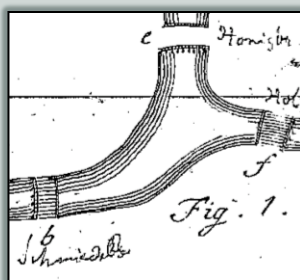
Euler as Physicist, by Dieter Suisky. This book views the development of modern physics through the lens of Euler's own work, beginning with the *Mechanica* and tracing the history of physics from this point to the 20th century.



One, Two, Three. At the Euler 2008 dinner, Susan Petry greets guests Glaus, Suisky, and Thiele in alphabetical order.

On the Euler Circuit

Recent seminars and colloquia on Euler



Euler and Extra-solar planets at AAAS

Ron Calinger organized a session titled "From Enlightenment lunar theories to extra-solar planets" at the AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago, which heavily featured Euler. The session began with a talk by **Siegfried Bodenmann** (Euler-Archive, Basel, Switzerland) on the lunar theories of Clairaut, d'Alembert, and Euler during the Enlightenment to confirm the precision of Newtonian mechanics. **Ronald Calinger** (Catholic University of America) Washington, DC presented some of his recent work on Euler's second stay in St. Petersburg, including some details on Euler's lunar theory. **Christophe Lovis** (University of Geneva, Geneva, Switzerland) finished the session by talking about the Swiss Euler telescope and the search for extra-solar planets. **Dominic Klyve, Rob Bradley, and Alexej Lopatukhin** also participated in the session as discussants.

Dominic Klyve gives Pohle Colloquium

The Pohle Colloquium at Adelphi University is alive and well in its 11th year. This monthly seminar on the history of mathematics has ranged over all of mathematical history, and covered many topics. In March 2009, Dominic Klyve gave a presentation entitled "An embarrassment of riches: Euler's choice of number theory problems at the end of his life," consisting of a preliminary report on how Euler chose which problems to work on once he was freed of all administrative duties.

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and serves to communicate the work of Euler scholars to a broader audience. However, this endeavor will be successful only with your participation. To this end, I encourage all of you to communicate Euler-related news items to the *Opusculus*, on any of the following areas:

Seminars and Colloquia. Did you see an interesting talk on Euler? 18th century science? A contemporary of Euler's? If it's worth mentioning to a colleague, it's worth including in the *Opusculus*!

Translations. While the existence of new translations should be communicated to the Euler Archive (www.eulerarchive.org), please feel free to pass on any interesting observations as you come across them.

Publications. If you find a book or article on Euler, and want to tell your friends, pass on a note to *Opusculus*. If you've written a book or article on Euler, and want to advertise it, pass on a note to *Opusculus*.

Photographs. As you can see, this newsletter includes several photos from the last Euler conference. If you have any photos relevant to Euler scholarship, please send them to me.

These are just a few reasons to send me your Euler-related news. Any items that you deem worthy can be sent to me via e-mail, at etou@carthage.edu. Please include "Opusculus" in the subject line.



John Glaus at the Euler 2008 conference with a copy of his translation of Louis-Gustave Du Pasquier's book, *Leonhard Euler and His Friends*. King Frederick II is looking on from behind.

Translation Update

The translation of Euler's works into English continues apace, with many people providing new insights into several different areas of Euler's scholarly work. Some selections are given below.

Ian Bruce's breathtaking pace at Euler translation continues unabated. Among his more noteworthy accomplishments is his translation of the second volume of Euler's *Mechanica* [E16]. With this, the whole of the *Mechanica* can now be read online in English. Furthermore, Bruce has re-typeset the Latin original, which is also available online. Anyone interested in Euler's work is encouraged to take a look at this translation and contact Dr. Bruce with feedback and constructive comments on his work.

Johan Sten has recently completed two translations:

- [E478] *Formulae generales pro translatione quacunque corporum rigidorum* (General formulas for the translation of an arbitrary rigid body).
- [E698] *Variae speculationes super area triangulorum sphaericorum* (Different speculations on the area of spherical triangles). Published in 1797, this paper includes a geometric proof of Lexell's theorem.

Archive.org has posted the 1922 Opera Omnia version of *Neue Grundsätze der Artillerie* (New Principles of Gunnery) [E77] on its website.

All of these documents are available through the Euler Archive:

www.eulerarchive.org

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Letters, articles, and other contributions to the *Opusculus* are very welcome. Send any contributions, observations, or news items to Erik Tou at etou@carthage.edu.

The mission of *The Euler Society* is threefold: It encourages scholarly contributions examining the life, research, and influence of Euler. The Society also explores current studies in the mathematical sciences that build upon his thought. And it promotes English translations of selections from his writings, including correspondence and notebooks.

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