

Winner of the 2011 Neumann Prize Announced

The winner of the Neumann Prize of the British Society for the History of Mathematics (BSHM) has been announced at Gresham College, London.

The prize, which is awarded every two years, is for the best book in the history of mathematics aimed at a broad audience. This year's winner is *The Math Book: From Pythagoras to the 57th Dimension* (Sterling Publishing) by Dr Clifford A Pickover. *The Math Book* gives a wide-ranging tour through 250 intriguing milestones in mathematical history. Each historical episode is covered succinctly in a single page and is accompanied by a full-page colour illustration. Art-quality paper and sumptuous production make this, in the best possible sense, a coffee-table book for the mathematically curious. The book gives the reader an insight into the vast breadth of mathematics, showing both its elegance and beauty as a discipline and also its perennial importance in science and engineering.

Professor Martin Campbell-Kelly of the University of Warwick, and chair of the judging panel for the Neumann Prize, said that “although the panel was faced with a strong shortlist of books, *The Math Book*, with its readable combination of history and beautiful artwork, emerged as a clear winner.”

Dr Pickover, a prolific author on science and mathematics topics, who is based at the IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center in Yorktown Heights, New York stated, “I believe that placing science and mathematics in their historical context has profound value for students and anyone curious about the evolution of thought and the wonders of human ingenuity. Thus, I am happy and honored that the BSHM has awarded me the 2011 Neumann Prize.”

Dr Peter Neumann OBE, Fellow of The Queen's College, Oxford in whose honour the prize is named, stated, “I am delighted to hear that the BSHM committee has chosen Cliff Pickover's *The Math Book*. It continues the high standard that has been set by the judging panel since the inauguration of the Prize in 2009.”

An e-interview with Cliff Pickover will be released on the internet on the 3rd November 2011 at www.bshm.org/NeumannPrize2011.html

MESSAGE ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITORS FOLLOWS

Notes for editors:

Founded in 1971, the British Society for the History of Mathematics exists to promote and encourage research in the history of mathematics and the use of the history of mathematics at all levels in education.

Dr Peter Neumann is a former president of the BSHM. He was awarded the OBE in 2008 for services to education.

Further information can be obtained from the BSHM Publicity Officer, Dr Mark McCartney.

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