



European Society for Mathematics and the Arts

Newsletter

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Dear Colleagues,

The new ESMA logo appeared in the April Newsletter for the first time. Three excellent images were in competition. The mathematical background of the two logos which were not adopted by the jury was more original than that of the actual logo. Enlarged, they were beautiful images and received some positive votes. However, when reduced, these images lose visibility. That is why a majority chose the four trefoils logo.

Just a word about its mathematical interest. The trefoil is a beautiful non trivial basic knot that can be enrolled on a torus (that is why it belongs to the family of torus knots). It was the inspiration for John Robinsons magnificent sculpture named «immortality», or the Philippe Rips regular trefoil. It took some time to discover the unexpected fact that the trajectories of the Lorenz attractor are trefoils. I also remarked that trefoils can be obtained from internal and external edges of a truncated tetrahedron, so that the four trefoils that can be obtained from the truncated tetrahedron make a good symbolization of the Boy surface : that is due to the fact that the trefoil is the boundary of a Möbius band which appears inside any non orientable manifold, like the Boy surface, for example. Thus trefoils do have an universal meaning, a pedagogical interest : their presence inside the ESMA logo may be related with the non local philosophy of the Society.

The reconstruction of our website is not yet finished. An efficient website is absolutely necessary for our visibility. The main structure of the previous website will be kept, but its banner will be completely different. The former one was made from some pale blue sketches of mathematical objects made with contemporary software, such as those produced by Dick Palais. The new banner - several can be conceived and used - will show series of artistic works from the past - engravings, paintings, sculptures - related with mathematics. Both the logo and the banners show a cultural and pedagogical interest which could contribute to improving the image of our website.

The website will be soon enriched by the pdf files sent by the authors to the editor of the Proceedings of the 2010 ESMA Conference.

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An interesting new Conference, titled Math Art Summit, will take place at the Royal Flemish Academy of Architecture in Brussels in May (24-25) (http://etopia.sintlucas.be/3.14/Wiskunst/Wiskunst_Brussels_2012.htm). It has been organized by Dirk Huylebroek from the Department of Architecture Sint-Lucas with the cooperation of Bridges.

I would especially like to thank a visitor to our last exhibition : Christian Lorin. Appreciating the exhibition and the ESMA concept, he contributed to put us in contact with UNESCO representatives, to the benefit of our exhibitions and projects. Incidentally, Christian Lorin did fruitful and useful researches in physics using trefoil wires.

I have begun with trefoils, and could end with trefoils, which do have a significant interest both in mathematics, physics, and art.

But I would like now to emphasize the cultural aspects of our Society, of our concepts and of the content of our activities.

Maybe we should modify somewhat the first lines of our statutes, so as to emphasize the cultural vocation of ESMA.

This is necessary to get the approval of the first «experts» who must decide whether a request of financial support from a «cultural» public office can be accepted or not. From what I have been told, the word cultural must appear if you want to get information and results.

*Best wishes.
Claude*

P.S. :

1) For good entertainment : read LOGICOMIX by Apostol Doxiadis, Christos Papadimitrou, Alecos Papadatos and Annie Di Donna (Bloomsbury Editing, Vuibert)

2) Enjoy also the reading of Higgs Forces by Nicholas Mee (Cambridge Univ. Press) and look at his «Henry Moore and Stringed Surfaces exhibition at the Royal Society». : <http://www.virtualimage.co.uk/nickmee/html/intersections.html> .

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