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THE FIBONACCI CONFERENCE IN SCOTLAND

Herta T. Freitag

Ever since our previous Meeting at Wake Forest University in North Carolina, the 1992 Conference had been awaited with keen anticipation. Finally, the announcement appeared: "sponsored jointly by The Fibonacci Association and The University of St. Andrews, THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS will be held at The University of St. Andrews, Scotland, from July 20th to July 24th 1992. Co-chairmen of the Local Committee are George M. Phillips and Colin M. Campbell, whereas the International Committee is co-chaired by A. N. Philippou and A. F. Horadam."

The participation, 80 in number, 12 of whom are women mathematicians, practically doubled previous attendances. All five continents were represented. From Europe there were 36; 29 came from America, 10 from Asia, 4 from Australia, and 1 from Africa. Among the 24 countries represented by Conference participants, the United States provided the largest contingent of 25 followed by Scotland and England, each with 8, and four countries—Austria, Canada, Italy, and Japan—each providing four registrants.

In all our Conferences do we greatly appreciate A. N. Philippou, "FATHER OF OUR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ," as he had initiated our FIRST meeting at Patras University in Greece in 1984. And in all our Conferences (and I do hope that in his proverbial modesty he will not censure this remark) we always cherish our conviction that a program, designed by our esteemed and beloved editor, Professor G. E. Bergum, spells excellence, even if—alas—this time double sessions would become necessary.

What caused the big increase in attendance?

It may have been the fact that The University of St. Andrews is held in high esteem the world over. It may have been the magnetism, mathematical as well as personal, of the set of co-chairmen.

Soul-searching choice decisions had to be made for the overlapping sessions as there were 68 papers, 6 of them presented by women mathematicians who hailed from Bulgaria, China, Italy, Scotland, and (two of them) from the U.S. At least three "non-mathematicians" gave papers, one a research astronomer, two electrical engineers. The ages ranged from 33– to 83+, an age span of 50 years! And the distance traveled by speakers ranged from zero (four St. Andrews faculty members gave papers) to approximately 12,000 miles (the journey from New Zealand).