

Dansk Matematisk Forening

Mandag den 17. september kl. 17:00
på Matematisk Institut, KU, Auditorium 10

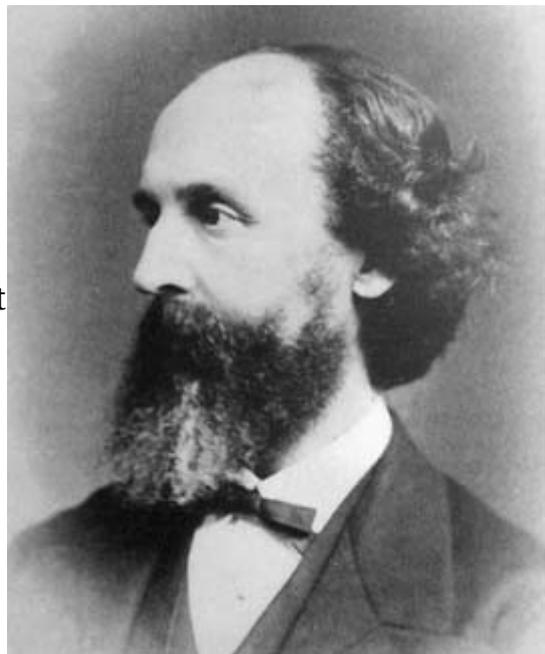
Professor Robin Wilson

President of the British Society for the History of Mathematics

holder foredrag om

Thomas Hirst -- Victorian Mathematician Xtravagant

Thomas Archer Hirst (1830-92) was a prominent British Victorian mathematician and scientist who pursued a varied and eventful career, mainly in geometry. But despite all his achievements (President of the London Mathematical Society, Vice-President of the Royal Society, member of the X-club, etc.), Hirst would have become a forgotten figure had it not been for his habit of writing a journal - and just as the diaries of Samuel Pepys vividly describe the London of the 1660s, so we learn much about Victorian scientific life from his extensive diaries. Covering over forty-five years, from 1845 when he became an apprentice railway surveyor of 15, to a month before his death, and extending to about 3000 pages of typescript (2 million words), they chronicle with great clarity the scientific and social circles in which he moved, and the mathematicians and scientists that he met (Gauss, Weber, Darwin, Babbage, Dirichlet, Steiner, Liouville, Cayley, Sylvester, Petersen, etc.).



Robin Wilson is an Emeritus Professor of Pure Mathematics at the Open University, Emeritus Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London, and a former Fellow of Keble College, Oxford, and currently teaches for Pembroke College, Oxford. He has written and edited many books on graph theory, including 'Introduction to Graph Theory (now in its fifth edition)' and 'Four Colours Suffice', and on the history of mathematics, including 'Lewis Carroll in Numberland'. He is involved with the popularization and communication of mathematics and its history, and was awarded a Pólya prize by the Mathematical Association of America for 'outstanding expository writing'. He is currently President of the British Society for the History of Mathematics.