

Brief history of the *SCM/Notícies*

Number 0 of the journal *SCM/Notícies* appeared in February 1995. It was designed to be a periodical that would expand and improve on *Noticiari de la SCM*, a two-page publication containing the most relevant Catalan and international Mathematics news.

Carles Casacuberta was the editor of the original *Noticiari*. The first four issues, published in 1993 and 1994, announced the Leibnitz scholarships, the Ferran Sunyer i Balaguer Prize, ICM 94, the CRM's postdoctoral scholarships and semesters on Dynamical Systems and Differential Geometry, Europroj 94, the 6th Pedagogical Meeting, Temu 95, the awarding of the Catalan autonomous government's Cross of Saint George to Lluís Santaló, the winners of the Fields Medal and the publication of the complete works of Pere Menal.

In February 1995, Sebastià Xambó was elected chairman of the Catalan Mathematical Society (SCM). One of the milestones of the chairman and the board was to expand *Noticiari* and so *SCM/Notícies* was born. The first editorial board was made up of Carles Casacuberta, Joaquín Ortega and Antoni Gomà, and was coordinated by Sebastià Xambó himself. The aim was not just to produce a journal of Catalan and international Mathematics news and inform SCM members about the activities being promoted by the new board, but also to provide a means of popularising Mathematics in Catalonia and a natural medium of communication for the Catalan Mathematics community —“our newspaper”.

Looking back over more than 10 years of history, these goals have all largely been achieved. Today, *SCM/Notícies* is a well-known periodical in Catalan mathematical circles, both in universities and secondary schools, and is fulfilling its role as a nexus and information point for Catalan mathematicians.

But let us go back to its beginnings. J. L. Ruiz of the Technical University of Catalonia began designing *SCM/Notícies* and Butlletí in L^AT_EX2e in 1995. The result was an `scm.cls` file that made editing the journal very easy and gave it its own individual style. Other people have also made decisive contributions to these editing and formatting tasks: J. Trias wrote a PostScript program to help with editing fig-

ures, Toni Escolà took part as the IEC's head of publications and later, in 2001, Teresa Sabater designed the journal's current format, which made its debut in Number 15, and Joan Torregrosa put it into L^AT_EX. Finally, Maria Julià has, with much care, dedication and efficiency, taken charge of composition and final publication since Number 9 and Núria Fuster at the SCM Secretariat is always on call for all the administrative work.

SCM/Notícies introduced permanent sections that have been consolidated over time and are still featured. The Problems section appeared in Number 0, as a space for readers to solve and propose problems, together with the Book Review section. The Theses section was introduced in Number 1, containing systematic reviews of all Mathematics theses read in Catalonia.

The Problems section was initially coordinated by Antoni Gomà, with the help of Josep Grané, coordinator of the Mathematical Olympiad in Catalonia, who provided the material for these tests. Josep Grané has also been on the *SCM/Notícies* editorial board since its inception.

Antoni Gomà, the coordinator of the Kangaroo contest in Catalonia, also writes regularly for *SCM/Notícies* providing all the information regarding this contest—dates, winners, participants, etc. The Kangaroo and Olympiad sections are permanent and, at this stage, classic sections of *SCM/Notícies*.

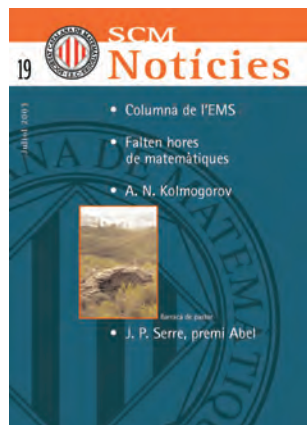
Pelegrí Viader and Anna Pol replaced Joaquín Ortega on the editorial board of *SCM/Notícies* in Number 7.

At the request of Sebastià Xambó, I took charge of *SCM/Notícies* from Number 9 onwards, with a board of editors made up of Sebastià Xambó, Antoni Gomà, Josep Grané and Carles Casacuberta. The Theses and Book Review sections were kept on and became my responsibility. The Problems section was handed over to Pelegrí Viader. A special section was started on 3ecm, Barcelona 2000 and was run by Carles Casacuberta.

For a few issues around Number 10, a section was run on language considerations that dealt with the correct way of translating into Catalan those technical words or expressions

that we as mathematicians commonly use in the original English or for which we devise rough-and-ready translations.

From Number 16, the Problems section was taken over by Carles Romero and in Number 18, the Column of the European Mathematical Society, now the International section, was begun under Marta Sanz.



I was replaced as editor by Enric Ventura in Number 20. Antoni Gomà, Carles Romero, Marta Sanz and Josep Pla, who has lately taken over the Book Review section with a large dose of initiative, continue to work with him. The four issues published under his direction (the latest of which is the special ICM 2006 issue you are now reading) continue the general lines of the journal, maintaining the traditional sections and introducing new and interesting ones, such as the Debate Forum for debate between members, the Universities Inform and Activities with the Collaboration of SCM sections and the new page on mathematical websites.

Below is a list of the most noteworthy news published in the 22 issues of *SCM/Notícies* over these past 11 years:

- Tribute to William K. Clifford (*SCM/Notícies* 1).
- The Taylor and Wiles Proof of Fermat's Theorem (*SCM/Notícies* 3).
- Realism in Mathematics (*SCM/Notícies* 7). Translation by Antoni Gomà of an article by Morris W. Hirsch in the AMS Bulletin issue 32, 1995.

- The 1998 Fields Medals (*SCM/Notícies* 9).
- 3ECM (*SCM/Notícies* 10).
- Interview with Professor Josep Vaquer (*SCM/Notícies* 11).
- Interview with Shiing Shen Chern (*SCM/Notícies* 12). Translation by Imma Gálvez of the interview published in AMS Notices, 45, Number 7.
- Gerbert d'Orlhac and Scientific Culture in the Year 1000 (*SCM/Notícies* 12).
- World Mathematics Year. Day at the Congress of Deputies (*SCM/Notícies* 13).
- Third European Mathematical Congress Closing report (*SCM/Notícies* 14).
- Meeting of Deans and Directors of Mathematics in Barcelona (*SCM/Notícies* 15).
- Tribute to William Tutte (*SCM/Notícies* 17).
- Tribute to Lluís Antoni Santaló (*SCM/Notícies* 18).
- 20th Anniversary of the CRM (*SCM/Notícies* 20).
- Debate Forum on the Training of Mathematics Teachers (*SCM/Notícies* 21).
- Honorary Doctorate conferred on Jean-Pierre Serre by the University of Barcelona (*SCM/Notícies* 21).
- EMS-SCM Joint Mathematical Weekend (*SCM/Notícies* 22).
- Let's Talk Books (*SCM/Notícies* 22).

The evolution of the quality of this popularising journal throughout its 11 years of existence (in terms of both form and content) is nothing more than the reflection of the vitality of the Catalan Mathematical Society and the Catalan mathematical community in general, far more than the few nuggets contributed by those of us who have worked on it in the past and those who work on it today. I cannot therefore finish without saying thanks to the many SCM members for their selfless collaboration in the publication of *SCM/Notícies* over the years. Without your contribution (as authors, editors, translators, reviewers, etc.) we could not have made this journal happen. Thank you all.

Agustí Reventós Tarrida
Former Editor of *SCM/Notícies*