

AD 1202

Fibonacci numbers (1 1 2 3 5 8)—each term (except the first two) is found by adding the preceding two terms.

AD 1269



Petrus Peregrinus invents 360-degree compass.

AD 1340

Double-entry bookkeeping originates in Lombardy.

Math Kits

IN 1971, THE EXECUTIVE authorized Stu McCormick to proceed with developing Math Kits: boxes of materials, more for display and teacher information rather than direct teaching, circulated to schools throughout the province in much the same manner as the film circuits. The kits could be requested by a MCATA member at no charge; the member was responsible for sending the kit to the next person on the circuit.

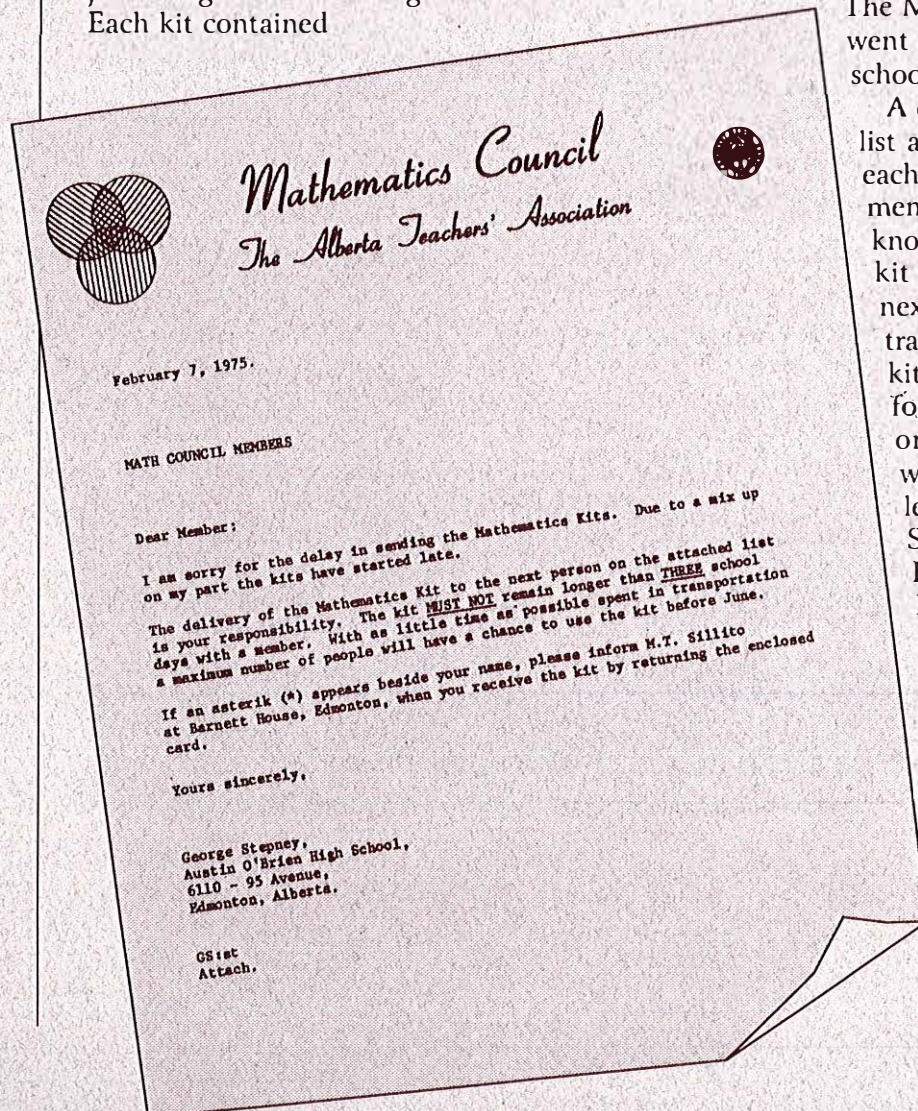
In February 1972, two Math Kits were in circulation to fill 68 requests. In 1973, the kits were reorganized into separate kits for elementary, junior high and senior high levels. Each kit contained

commercial and teacher-made materials designed to assist teachers in expanding their mathematics programs. Each kit was essentially a preview kit to provide teachers with ideas and an opportunity to evaluate materials before purchase. George Stepney took over as Math Kit coordinator in 1973, and demand for the kits was so great that a waiting list was established for fall circulation.

In 1974, Bob Holt became coordinator, and a Metric Kit was added. The four kits continued to be popular and were completely scheduled. In two-month periods, each kit went to at least 15 schools, where it was

kept for four days. The Metric Kit went out to 25 schools.

A circulation list accompanied each kit so members would know where the kit should go next. To keep track of the kits, every fourth person on each list was asked to let Mel Sillito, at Barnett House, know when the kit was received, which produced a barrage of phone calls and letters so that, in the next round,



postcards to be returned to Barnett House were included in the kits.

In summer 1976, the kits were updated, and new materials from commercial companies were added, paid for "at cost" by the Council. In 1977, Audrey Brattberg took over as coordinator and reported that kits were moving smoothly throughout the province. It was later recommended that the kits not travel for

the 1977-78 school year, as they needed repair and upgrading. In April 1978, the executive decided to send the updated kits to the ATA library, where teachers and schools would still have access to them. MCATA had handled the circulation of the kits throughout the province for six years, providing a service of particular importance to nonurban teachers and schools.

Metric Missionaries

AS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESS OF the Metric Workshop held in summer 1974 and being aware of the need for metric "awareness," the executive formed the "Metric Missionaries." These teams of teachers traveled throughout the province, with all the necessary materials to put on four-hour Saturday workshops. Fees were \$5 for MCATA members, \$10 for nonmembers (including membership) and \$8 for nonmembers' workshop fee only. Local organizers arranged

for the meeting place, handled publicity and conducted registration. The Missionaries coordinators were Francis Somerville for southern Alberta, Brian Chapman for central Alberta and Joan Kirkpatrick for northern Alberta. The Metric Missionaries operated for two years; there is no report of the number of workshops conducted. However, the minutes of a 1975 executive meeting noted that 71 requests for information on the Metric Missionaries had been received from all over North America.

AD 1489

Johann Widman introduces $+$ and $-$ signs in mathematics.

AD 1545

Italian Gerolamo Cardano publishes *The Great Art, or the Rules of Algebra*.

Italian mathematicians solve problem of cubic equations.

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