SRINIVASA RAMANUJAN AND NIELS HENRIK ABEL

Abel and Ramanujan were born 85 years apart in time and a world apart in space: Abel in 1802 in Frindø (near Stavanger), Norway, and Ramanujan in 1887 in Erode, Tamil Nadu, India. Both died young---Abel at 27 and Ramanujan at 32. They both grew up in poverty and hardship; Norway was not in great shape at that time. The lives of these two mathematicians are at once romantic, tragic, and heroic. Of the two, perhaps Ramanujan may have been the more fortunate. He found a sympathetic mentor in G.H. Hardy, a mathematician of towering stature at Cambridge, who was responsible for making Ramanujan's work known to the world during the latter's own lifetime. Abel had the misfortune that his best work was mislaid at the Paris Academy, and was recognized only posthumously.

Abel was a pioneer in the development of several branches of modern mathematics, especially group theory and elliptic functions. He showed, while still 19 years old, that there exist no general algebraic solutions for the roots of polynomials with degree equal to or greater than 5, thus resolving a problem that had intrigued mathematicians for centuries. Ramanujan was a genius in pure mathematics and made spectacular contributions to elliptic functions, continued fractions, infinite series, and analytical theory of numbers. He was essentially self-taught from a single text book that was available to him. They both possessed extraordinary mathematical power and inspiration.

The Abdus Salam
International Centre
for Theoretical Physics

the Ramanujan Prize
for Young Mathematicians
from Developing Countries
2007

Jorge Lauret

2007 RAMANUJAN PRIZE CEREMONY
December 3, 2007

THE RAMANUJAN PRIZE

The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) recently established the Srinivasa Ramanujan Prize, named after the mathematics genius from India. This Prize will be awarded annually to a mathematician under 45. Since the mandate of ICTP is to strengthen science in developing countries, the Ramanujan Prize has been created for mathematicians from developing countries. Since Ramanujan is the quintessential symbol of the best in mathematics from the developing world, naming the Prize after him seemed entirely appropriate.

The Ramanujan Prize is funded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters through the Abel Fund, with the cooperation of the International Mathematical Union. The Abel Fund is named in honor of the great Norwegian mathematician, Niels Henrik Abel. It is enchanting that the names of these two extraordinary mathematicians should be linked through this Prize.

THE 2007 RAMANUJAN PRIZE CEREMONY

This year's Ramanujan Prize is awarded to Professor Jorge Lauret, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina, with the following citation: "The Prize is in recognition of his outstanding contributions to differential geometry and group representations. They include his (negative) answer to a question posed by Selberg in 1956. In recent years, Lauret has made significant progress in the classification of non-compact Einstein manifolds. In the process, he introduced new and powerful tools to the field."

2007 RAMANUJAN PRIZE CEREMONY

Professor K.R. Sreenivasan
Director of the
Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics
has the pleasure of inviting you to the
2007 Ramanujan Prize Ceremony on

Monday, December 3, 2007
at 11:00
in the Main Lecture Hall of the Main Building

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Programme

11:00	Welcome remarks by Professor K.R. Sreenivasan
11:10	Remarks by Consigliere A. Zimmermann Representative of the Embassy of Argentina, Rome
11:20	Presentation of the Prize to Professor Jorge Lauret
11:25	Acceptance speech by the Prize winner