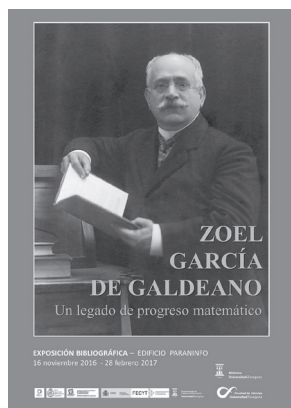# La Real Sociedad Matemática Española

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The Royal Spanish Mathematical Society (Real Sociedad Matemática Española, RSME) has recently celebrated its first centennial. It was officially founded, at the time as "Sociedad Matemática Española", in Madrid in 1911. Its first president was José Echegaray, a civil engineer who is best known for having won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1904 but who was also a professor of mathematical physics at the University Central at Madrid (now the Universidad Complutense de Madrid). Other preeminent names of presidents of the society include Zoel García de Galdeano, Leonardo Torres Quevedo and Julio Rey Pastor.

Poster of the exposition of the bibliographical legacy of Zoel García de Galdeano, held at the library of the University of Zaragoza during the days of the last biennial congress of the RSME.

As of 2016, the society has around 1600 individual members and 100 institutional members (such as schools, departments and research institutes). It has reciprocity agreements with many other Spanish, European and international mathematical societies (in particular, with the European Mathematical Society), which allow its members to join these other societies for a reduced membership fee. The society itself is a member of several international mathematical organisations, such as the EMS, the IMU (via the Spanish Committee of Mathematics, which acts as the Spanish Adhering Organisation between the IMU and the Spanish mathematical community), CIMPA and ICIAM.

The main tasks of the society are the promotion and dissemination of mathematics and its applications, and fostering research and teaching in all mathematical areas and educational levels. Through its conferences, meetings and publications, the society tries to serve as a central reference and meeting point for all the Spanish mathematical community.

The governing board of the society consists of the president (currently Francisco Marcellán), who is elected for a period of three years and for a maximum of two terms, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a general editor and 10 elected members (also for a period of three years, renewable for a second term). The board decides on all important matters related to the society. The general assembly takes place at least once a year, at which the society members approve the annual budget and discuss other matters. There are also several specialised thematic committees, such as the Scientific Committee, the Dissemination Committee, the Education Committee, International Relations, and Women and Mathematics. We would like to point out the parity in composition of all of them, according to gender policy.

The RSME is signing collaboration agreements with Spanish Universities to foster collaboration in the promotion and dissemination of mathematics. As of August 2017, we have signed agreements with 17 institutions in order to support activities of our members, as well as organising official RSME scientific meetings.

The most important scientific event organised by the society is the biennial congress, in which some 400-500 mathematicians meet every two years in a different Spanish city to discuss the latest development in their research areas. These conferences consist of plenary talks, parallel thematic sessions, poster sessions and discussion panels and are usually complemented by several cultural events related to mathematics in the hosting city. The latest biennial congress took place in Zaragoza in February 2017 and the next one will be in Santander in 2019.

Another important scientific event organised by the society is the congress for young researchers, which also takes place every two years and mimics the structure of the biennial congress. The members of the organising and scientific committees and the participants of these congresses are promising young mathematicians, who will lead mathematical research in Spain in the coming years. In September 2017, this meeting will take place in Valencia.

Besides these, the RSME has organised over the last few years many joint congresses with mathematical societies of other countries: with the AMS (in 2003, with more than 1000 participants), with the Belgian and Luxembourg Mathematical Societies (twice since 2012), with the French Mathematical Society (2007), with the Swedish and Catalan Mathematical Societies (2017), with the Italian and other Spanish Mathematical Societies (2014), with the Mexican Mathematical Society (four times since 2009), with the Brazilian Mathematical Societies (2015) and with the Argentinian Mathematical Union (2017), in addition to the well-established biennial Iberian Meeting, organised jointly with the Portuguese Mathematical Society. This is an excellent way to foster interactions between the mathematical

communities of Spain and these other countries. Also organised by the society is the summer school of mathematical research *Lluís Santaló*, which has taken place in the Universidad Internacional Menéndez Pelayo since 2002.
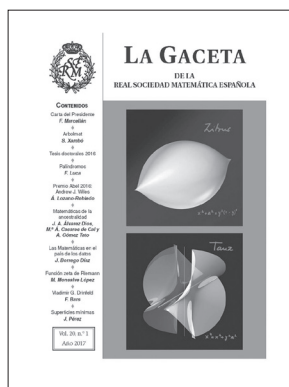
Mathematical education is another important topic that the society is concerned with and actively involved in. Together with the Spanish Federation of Mathematics Teachers, the Education Committee of the RSME organises the school *Miguel de Guzmán*, a biennial meeting that deals with all sorts of topics related to mathematical education.

Logo of the Spanish Mathematical Olympiad.

The society (and, in particular, its Olympiads Committee) has also been responsible for the organisation of the local and national phases of the Spanish Mathematical Olympiad since 1964. In the national phase, the high school students that will be part of the Spanish team in the International and Iberoamerican Mathematical Olympiads are selected from some 70–80 participants who have won the local phases in their provinces. In 2004, the Iberoamerican Mathematical Olympiad was organised in Castellón and in 2008, the International Mathematical Olympiad took place in Madrid, a report of which can be found in EMS Newsletter No. 69, September 2008.

The *Bulletin of the RSME* is a weekly newsletter that is distributed to all members of the society (originally in print and nowadays only electronically) with the most important news of the society and the Spanish and International mathematical communities from the previous week. It contains news, conference announcements and links to websites of mathematical interest. The other main publication is *La Gaceta de la RSME*, a printed journal published by the society (currently three times a year) and freely distributed to all members. Within this journal, one can find mathematical research articles, biographical and historical articles, interviews with members of the international mathematical community, book reviews, problems and much more.

Front cover of the last issue of *La Gaceta de la RSME*. It contains pictures from the RSME-Imaginary Exhibition.

The society also edits the *Revista Matemática Iberoamericana*, a peer-reviewed scientific journal currently published by the EMS Publishing House. It also publishes mathematical books in several collections. It has agreements with the AMS and with Springer, among other publishers, in order to publish joint volumes in some of their collections. Among the non-periodic publications, one should note the facsimile editions of the

treatises *Introductio in Analysin infinitorum* by Leonhard Euler and *De Analysi per Aequationes Numero Terminorum Infinitas* by Isaac Newton, as well as Archimedes' Collected Works, all of them under the editorial supervision of A. J. Durán. The book series "*Publications of the RSME*" includes proceedings of conferences supported by the society.

The *José Luis Rubio de Francia Prize* is one of the most important prizes in mathematics and the highest distinction awarded by the RSME. It is awarded to young researchers in mathematics who are Spanish or have done their work in Spain. Its first edition was in 2004 and it is awarded annually. The list of prize winners is: Joaquim Puig, Javier Parcet, Santiago Morales, Pablo Mira, Francisco Gancedo, Álvaro Pelayo, Carlos Beltrán, Alberto Enciso, María Pe, Ángel Castro, Nuno Freitas, Roger Casals and Xavier Ros-Otón.

The *Prize Vicent Caselles* is an annual distinction for young Spanish researchers whose doctoral work is of high standard and internationally recognised. The first edition was in 2015 and there are six awards annually. Every year since 2015, the RSME Medals have acknowledged three relevant mathematicians from Spain for their commitment to the community and their contributions to scientific advancement, education or the dissemination of mathematics.

Award ceremony of the Vicent Caselles Prizes and the RSME Medals, 2017. Photograph courtesy of Fundación BBVA.

RSME is very concerned with the dissemination of mathematics. The *Divulgamat* website "http://www.divulgamat.net/" is a virtual centre of popularisation of mathematics. The *Arbolmat* website (Arbol de las Matemáticas, translated as Tree of Mathematics) "http://www.arbolmat.com/" contains biographies of many Spanish mathematicians. The RSME has also organised the Spanish version of Imaginary, an itinerant exhibition focused on interactive geometry open to the general public (see "https://imaginary.org/").

The society is also involved with Real Academia Española in the renewal and insertion of new mathematical words in its dictionary, as well as with Fundación Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza in a programme on *Art and Mathematics*, including mathematical paths in the permanent collection of this prestigious museum in Madrid.

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