

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON
FIBONACCI NUMBERS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS
A MEMORY-LADEN EXPERIENCE

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There I was—alone on a strange campus, at the University of California at Berkeley, where the startling number of 3,970 had gathered for ICM-86, The International Congress of Mathematicians. Did someone just call my name? He had done it again!—Professor A. N. Philippou, Chairman of our First International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications two years ago at The University of Patras, Greece, the man who at the time had "recognized" me without ever having seen me, now managed to "run into me" amidst this "almost non-numerable" crowd.

To encounter—just before our Conference—Professor Philippou, the originator of the idea to set the stage for a meeting of "Fibonacci friends" on an international scale, was a very special omen to me. It was an appropriate and beautiful overture to our Second International Conference on Fibonacci Numbers and Their Applications, which was to begin two days later, and convened from August 13-16 at San Jose State University. This site was befittingly chosen, as it is the home of *The Fibonacci Quarterly*.

Professor Calvin Long, Chairman of the Board of The Fibonacci Association, and Professor Hugh Edgar, a member of the University's Mathematics Department, participated in the Conference. This gave us the opportunity to express our appreciation of the fact that our Conference was co-sponsored by The Fibonacci Association and San Jose State University.

Professor Gerald E. Bergum, Editor of *The Fibonacci Quarterly* and Chairman of the Local Committee, and Professor A. N. Philippou, who chaired the International Committee, immediately earned our admiration and praise. So did the Co-Chairmen—Professors A. F. Horadam and Hugh Edgar, and, indeed, Professor Calvin Long and all the other helpers "on the stage" and "in the wings."

The organization of our Conference was exemplary. And the atmosphere was charged with that most appealing blend of the seriousness and profundity of scholarship and the enthusiasm and warmth of personal relationships. This seems to be the trademark of "Fibonaccians"—mathematicians who are dedicated to a common cause: a deep and abiding fascination with "Fibonacci-type" mathematics.

Approximately twenty-five papers were presented by a group which came from some ten countries. There were several joint authorships. Some had resulted from a cooperation between authors separated by oceans—a situation which, predictably, poses many obstacles: one just has to "hover by the mailbox until the anxiously awaited response can possibly arrive." Many of the papers exhibited the phenomenon that one mathematical idea begot another, and yet another, maybe a generalization, and yet a further one, etc., the very development mathematicians cherish so much. Our understanding of the goldmine that number sequences and the intricacies of their interrelationships constitute was enriched, and our appreciation of the value of such investigations was deepened. While the variety of topics was striking, dedication to the beauty of mathematical patterns and joy over the wealth of mathematical relationships provided the common bond. The Conference Proceedings will be published in the near future.

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A small nucleus, just seven participants, were "second-timers," people who had previously experienced the unique pleasure of this kind of gathering on an international scale. Their friendships were welded together more meaningfully yet, and many newcomers were initiated. Many of us had accents but, in a very significant way, we all spoke the same language.

Professor Hoggatt's widow, Herta Hoggatt, most graciously invited our entire mathematical community to convene at her charming home—outdoors, amidst the beauty of flowers and trees. In a deeply touching way did the late Professor Verner E. Hoggatt, Jr., thus participate in our thoughts.

I believe that all of our Fibonacci friends—here and across the oceans—greatly valued the fact that the dream, first voiced in Greece, about continuation of our international gatherings had been realized. Now, we confidently rejoice over the prospect: "Until we meet again..., in two years, in Italy..., maybe in Pisa!"

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