

## David J. Lockwood's Ph.D. Supervisor Lineage

### **LOCKWOOD**, David John

Born: 7 January 1942 in Christchurch, New Zealand  
Solid State Experimental Physicist  
Fellow, American Physical Society (1997)  
Fellow, Royal Society of Canada (1999)  
Fellow, Electrochemical Society (2001)  
Brockhouse Medal, Canadian Association of Physicists (2005)  
Tory Medal, Royal Society of Canada (2005)

Ph.D. (1969), University of Canterbury, New Zealand on inelastic light scattering in solids (experiment); D.Sc. (1978), University of Edinburgh, Scotland; D.Sc. (2000), University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Lockwood has pioneered applications of inelastic light scattering spectroscopy to the study of layered compounds (University of Canterbury), solvated ions (University of Waterloo), structural phase transitions (University of Edinburgh), magnetic excitations (*Light Scattering in Magnetic Solids* with Michael G. Cottam, 1986) and semiconductor heterostructures (National Research Council of Canada). His latest research on the optical properties of semiconductor nanostructures (*Light Emission in Silicon*, 1998; *Semiconductor Nanocrystals* with Alexander Efros and Leonid Tsybeskov, 2003; *Silicon Photonics* with Lorenzo Pavesi, 2004; *Self-Organized Nanoscale Materials* with Motonari Adachi, 2006) and magnetic nanostructures has attracted wide attention.

Lockwood was a Teaching Fellow at the University of Canterbury (1965–1969), a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Waterloo (1970–1971), a Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh (1972–1978), and in 1978 joined the National Research Council of Canada where he is currently Principal Research Officer.

Photograph URL [http://ims-ism.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/staff/LockwoodDJ\\_e.html](http://ims-ism.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca/staff/LockwoodDJ_e.html)

### **McLELLAN**, Alister George

Born: 4 June 1919 in Christchurch, New Zealand  
Mathematical Physicist/Solid State Theoretical Physicist  
Fellow, Royal Society of New Zealand (1961)  
Fellow, Institute of Physics (1966)  
Hector Medal, Royal Society of New Zealand (1958)

Ph.D. (1948), University of Edinburgh, Scotland on the pair distribution function of molecular fluids (theory).

Other students and visitors studying with Max Born at that time (1946–1948) were Kun Huang of Academia Sinica, Beijing, China; Antonio E. Rodriguez from Argentina; Noel K. Pope of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Canada; Herbert S. Green of the

University of Adelaide, Australia; and Yang and K.C. Cheng of China. Born's 10 doctoral students at the time all came from different countries and they called themselves the "League of Nations".

McLellan was Physicist, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington during the Second World War (1942–1945), Lecturer in Physics, University of Otago (1949–1955), and Professor of Physics, University of Canterbury (1955–1985) serving as Head of Department from 1955–1983.

His research interests include the theory of lattice dynamics and the thermodynamics of anisotropic media (*The Classical Thermodynamics of Deformable Solids*, 1980).

### **BORN, Max**

Born: 11 December 1882 in Breslau, Prussia (now Wroclaw, Poland)

Died: 5 January 1970 in Göttingen, Germany

Applied Mathematician/Theoretical Physicist

Fellow, Royal Society of London (1939)

Fellow, Royal Society of Edinburgh

**Nobel Prize** in Physics (1954) for his fundamental research in quantum mechanics, especially for his statistical interpretation of the wave function

Macdougall-Brisbane Prize; Royal Society of Edinburgh (1945)

Max Planck Medal, German Physical Society (1948)

Hughes Medal, Royal Society of London (1950)

Ph.D. (1906), University of Göttingen, Germany on the elasticity of wires and tapes (theory and experiment): *Untersuchungen ueber Stabilitaet der elastischen Linie in Ebene und Raum unter verschiedenen Grenzbedingungen*.

Born's interests in physics were wide ranging, including a life long interest in the dynamics of crystal lattices, but he is best known for his role in establishing and clarifying fundamental concepts in modern quantum theory. In the early 1920s he, with his students Werner Heisenberg (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1932) and Pascual Jordan, developed what Born termed quantum (matrix) mechanics. They derived the now well-known relationship between the position ( $q$ ) and momentum ( $p$ ) coordinates of a particle:

$$pq - qp = h/2\pi i.$$

Born considered this equation as the most significant finding of his scientific career, and it is engraved on his tombstone.

Born held the positions of Privatdozent, University of Göttingen (1908–1915) under Woldemar Voigt; Extraordinary (Assistant) Professor, University of Berlin (1915–1919) with Max Planck (Nobel Prize in Physics, 1918); Professor, University of Frankfurt-on-Maine (1919–1921); Professor, University of Göttingen (1921–1933); stripped of his Göttingen post by the German law "Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums" passed by Adolf Hitler's regime, he worked in Italy, at Cambridge University (Stokes Lecturer), and in Bangalore, India visiting Sir C.V. Raman (Nobel

Prize in Physics, 1930); and finally Tait Professor of Natural Philosophy, University of Edinburgh (1936–1953).

Photograph URL <http://www.chemie.uni-bremen.de/stohrer/biograph/born.htm>

**RUNGE**, Carl David Tolmé

Born: 30 August 1856 in Bremen, Germany

Died: 3 January 1927 in Göttingen, Germany

Applied Mathematician

Ph.D. (1880), University of Berlin, Germany on differential geometry (pure mathematics)

Runge's early mathematical work focused on procedures for the numerical solution of algebraic equations in which the roots were expressed as infinite series of rational functions of the coefficients. He is best known in mathematics for development of the Runge-Kutta method for numerically solving differential equations. Later, after moving to Hanover, he moved away from pure mathematics to study the wavelengths of the spectral lines of elements. Runge succeeded in arranging the spectral lines of helium into two spectral series, which, until 1897, was thought to be evidence that hydrogen gas comprised two elements.

Runge was Professor of Mathematics, University of Hanover (1886–1904) and Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Göttingen (1904–1925). A crater on the moon is named after him.

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**WEIERSTRASS**, Karl Theodor Wilhelm

Born: 31 October 1815 in Ostenfelde, Westfalia

Died: 19 February 1897 in Berlin, Germany

Pure Mathematician

Full Member, Berlin Academy (1856)

Fellow, Royal Society of London (1881)

Copley Medal, Royal Society of London (1895)

Teaching degree (1841), Theological and Philosophical Academy, Münster, Germany on the theory of elliptic functions (pure mathematics) based on some lectures on this topic given in Münster in 1839—and also on some written work—by Christoph Gudermann, who was his examiner. He received an honorary doctorate from the University of Königsberg in 1854 in response to a famous paper on Abelian functions published that year (at age 39!).

Weierstrass is famous in mathematics for numerous accomplishments and has been labeled as one of the all-time great lecturers in mathematics. Students were attracted to these lectures from all over the world. He is best known for his construction of the theory for complex functions by means of power series. His rigorous approach, demanding that mathematics be based on clear and correct proofs, strongly affected the future of mathematics.

Weierstrass was a secondary school teacher first at the Pro-Gymnasium in Deutsch-Krone, West Prussia (1842–1848) and then at the Collegium Hosianum in Braunsberg (1848–1855). He was appointed Professor at the Industry Institute (later the Technische Hochschule) in Berlin (June 1856) followed rapidly by an appointment as Extraordinary Professor (October 1856) and then Professor (1864–1897) at the University of Berlin. He was reported as saying: “It is true that a mathematician who is not also something of a poet will never be a perfect mathematician”.

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#### **GUDERMANN, Christoph**

Born: 25 March 1798 in Vienenberg, Germany

Died: 25 September 1851 in Münster, Germany

Mathematician

Gudermann studied mathematics initially under Bernhard Thibaut at the University of Göttingen (1820-1821). He was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Berlin in 1832 and received his Ph.D. in Göttingen in 1841 under Carl Gauss with a dissertation on modular functions: *Über die Entwicklung der Modularfunctionen*.

He worked on spherical geometry and special functions including the theory of elliptic and hyperbolic functions, and on the expansion of functions by power series. He published a number of papers and four books on these topics. His last book was *On the Scientific Use of Siege Guns* (1850).

Gudermann became a mathematics teacher at the Kleve Gymnasium (1823-1832) after qualifying in Berlin in 1823. He was appointed Extraordinary Professor (1832-1839) and then Professor of Mathematics (1839-1851) at the Theological and Philosophical Academy in Münster, which trained secondary school teachers.

#### **GAUSS, Johann Carl Friedrich**

Born: 30 April 1777 in Brunswick, Germany

Died: 23 February 1855 in Göttingen, Germany

Mathematician/Astronomer/Physicist

Fellow, Royal Society of London (1804)

Fellow, Royal Society of Edinburgh (1820)

Copley Medal, Royal Society of London (1838)

With the aid of a stipend from the Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, Gauss entered Brunswick Collegium Carolinum in 1792 where he independently worked on mathematical formalisms. In 1795 he left Brunswick to study under the then 75-year-old Abraham Kästner at the University of Göttingen whose lectures he found to be rather elementary, but returned again to Brunswick in 1798 where he received a degree in 1799. The Duke of Brunswick renewed Gauss's stipend and requested that he should submit a doctoral thesis to the University of Helmstedt, where Johann Pfaff was chosen to be his advisor. He obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Helmstedt in 1799 with a dissertation on the fundamental theorem of algebra: *Demonstratio nova thoerematis omnem functionem algebraicam rationalem integram unius variabilis in factores reales primi vel secundi gradus resolvi posse* (New Evidence of the Theorem that Every Integral Rational Algebraic Function of One Factor can be Resolved into Real Factors of the Primary and Secondary Power).

As a result of the Duke of Brunswick's stipend, Gauss was relieved of the need to find employment and was thus able to devote all his time to research. During his first visit to the University of Göttingen he discovered how to construct a regular seventeen-gon by using a ruler and compass. This was a major discovery, representing one of the significant advances in this field since the work of the ancient Greek mathematicians. This work was presented in his famous book on *Diquisitiones Arithmeticae* (Arithmetical Treatises) published in the summer of 1801, which was mainly devoted to number theory.

When Gauss's benefactor was killed while fighting for the Prussian Army, Gauss left Brunswick in 1807 to become the director of the Göttingen University Observatory. A new observatory was completed under his supervision in 1816, but he still found time to complete his second book on the motion of celestial bodies (*Theoria motus corporum coelestium in sectionibus conicis Solem ambientum*, 1809) and publish papers on a variety of mathematical and geodesic problems. From 1818 and on into the 1820s, he carried out a geodesic survey of the State of Hanover, inventing the heliotrope in the process. Gauss continued writing many papers in many areas of mathematics, including statistics and the least squares method and differential geometry, while in physics he investigated forces of attraction and developed the principle of least constraint.

In 1831 Wilhelm Weber took up the physics chair in Göttingen, and he and Gauss had a very profitable collaboration that lasted until 1837 when Weber was forced to leave Göttingen owing to a political dispute. They worked on the theory of terrestrial magnetism and Gauss constructed a magnetic observatory, completed in 1833, that was free of all magnetic materials. They discovered Kirchoff's laws and built a primitive telegraph device that could transmit messages over a distance of about 1500 m. After Weber's departure, Gauss's publishing activity gradually decreased and from 1845 to 1851 he concentrated on managing the Göttingen University widow's fund. The experience he gained in financial matters allowed him to make his fortune through investments in bonds.

**THIBAUT, Bernhard Friedrich**

Born: 22 December 1775 in Harburg, Germany

Died: 4 November 1832 in Göttingen, Germany

Mathematician

Mag.Phil. (1796), University of Göttingen. He studied under the then famous mathematician Abraham Kästner and the extraordinary physicist G.C. Lichtenberg. His dissertation, in Latin, on the history of the controversy over negative numbers and the impossibility of supporting a logarithm was published in 1797.

Thibaut wrote general mathematical texts on the *Principles of Pure Mathematics* (1801) and on the *Principles of General Arithmetic or Analysis* (1809).

Thibaut spent his entire mathematical career at the University of Göttingen, first as Privatdozent (appointed 1797), then Extraordinary Professor (1802), and finally Professor (1805) in the Philosophy Faculty, with an eventual appointment as Professor of Mathematics (1829).

**PFAFF, Johann Friedrich**

Born: 22 December 1765 in Stuttgart, Germany

Died: 21 April 1825 in Halle, Germany

Mathematician/Astronomer

Pfaff attended the Hohe Karlsschule in Stuttgart from age 9 to 20 and on leaving in 1785 he had completed his studies in law: his knowledge of mathematics was largely self-taught. He then spent two years at the University of Göttingen studying mathematics and obtaining his D.Phil. (1786) under Abraham Kästner on *Commentatio de ortibus et occasibus siderum apud auctores classicos commemoratis* (Dissertation on the risings and settings of celestial bodies in the accounts of classical authors). He also studied physics at Göttingen.

Some of Pfaff's important work was done in the general area of analysis, involving the properties of partial differential equations, special functions and the theory of series. His most important work on what is now called Pfaffian forms was published in 1815 when Pfaff was almost fifty years old. This paper on the theory of differential equations constituted the starting point of the theory of integration of partial differential equations that then developed eventually into the calculus of extreme differential forms. Amongst other works, he published in 1797 an introductory mathematical text on *Diquisitiones analyticae maxime ad calculum integralem et doctrinam serierum pertinentes* (Analytical treatises especially dealing with integral calculus and the principle of series).

In 1787 Pfaff moved from Göttingen to Berlin and studied astronomy under J.E. Bode before writing his first scientific paper, which was on a problem in astronomy. Following a recommendation of his former professor of physics at Göttingen, Pfaff was appointed

to the chair of mathematics at the University of Helmstedt in 1778. He remained there until 1810, when the university was closed. From the choices offered to the university staff, Pfaff chose to move to Halle, where he was appointed to the chair of mathematics in 1810. Then, in 1812, he also became director of the Halle University Observatory.

**KÄSTNER**, Abraham Gotthelf

Born: 27 September 1719 in Leipzig, Germany

Died: 20 June 1800 in Göttingen, Germany

Mathematician/Astronomer

External Fellow, Royal Prussian Academy of Berlin (1749)

Fellow, Royal Society of London (1789)

Phil. Disp. (1739), University of Leipzig on *Theoria radicum in aequationibus* (The theory of roots in equations).

Kästner's father, Abraham Kästner, was a Professor of Jurisprudence who brought up his son to study law, a rather unusual upbringing, in which his wife's brother, Gottfried Rudolf Pommer, who practiced law in Leipzig, also participated. Contrary to the pedagogical custom of the time, the boy learned to read without knowing that the letters of the alphabet were arranged in a definite order, and only became aware of this when he needed to look up a word in a Latin-German dictionary. At the age of six, he was given a Bible, and obliged to start reading it twice a day, morning and evening, a task he performed so faithfully that in eighteen months he had read it right through to the end for the first time (on 12 April 1727, as Kästner mentioned in his Latin autobiography).

Tutored by his uncle, Kästner learned four modern languages; English, French, Italian and Spanish. In his early years, he also learned the rudiments of mathematics, although he found simple arithmetic quite difficult at first, as it took him a long time to learn the multiplication table. By his own account, he was so casual in following the rules of addition when doing simple sums that his parents used to laugh at him. By now Kästner had reached the age of ten, and his father thought it was time that his son should accompany him to his lectures on the "Institutes of Justinian", which the child followed so attentively that, in the following year, he was able to attend a disputation, i.e., the defense of a thesis, which at that time was open to the public. By the time he was officially enrolled on the university records as a law student at the age of twelve (on 27 September 1731), he was far ahead of the other newly enrolled students as far as legal knowledge was concerned. His health and physique had taken no harm from this early intellectual development, and Kästner was a lifelong opponent of the idea that a child's physical health might suffer from intellectual exertion within the child's capacity.

Kästner Senior's hope to make his son a scholar of jurisprudence was fulfilled to the extent that in 1733 the young Kästner qualified as a notary and as candidate for a *Magister Artium* in jurisprudence. However, the young scholar's interests lay in widely different fields. In later life, Kästner expressed it this way: "Socrates' father was an excellent sculptor, and wanted his son to be the same. My father was a professor of law,

and had me study law. Lucia, or perhaps some other ancient writer, says somewhere: ‘Even though it might be more important to Athens to have good stonemasons rather than good philosophers, even so, Socrates did well not to become a stonemason’.”

The branches of knowledge that attracted Kästner away from the profession for which his father had intended him were mathematics, physics, philosophy and history, in none of which he ever lost interest. Yet it can be added that there was scarcely a single lecture in the Philosophical Faculty which he failed to attend, together with going to medical lectures and lectures in botany, chemistry, surveying, anatomy and forensic medicine from time to time, storing up great hoards of treasure from many different disciplines in his gigantic memory.

He published a large number of influential books on mathematics, physics, and astronomy as well as poems and other literary works, notably his epigrams. Gauss, who had not been impressed with Kästner’s mathematics lectures, once made a rather cutting epigram himself about Kästner during the course of a lecture: “Among the poets of his time, Kästner was the best mathematician; among the mathematicians, he was the best poet.” Kästner was the first mathematician to write a comprehensive history of mathematics (*History of Mathematics* written in the last years of his life and published in four volumes between 1796 and 1800) and the first to define trigonometric and hyperbolic functions as pure numbers. His work led to the foundations of parallel theory and non-Euclidean geometry. He popularized astronomy and calculus in Germany and established Göttingen as a world center of mathematical studies.

Kästner became Privatedozent in 1739 at the University of Leipzig and lectured on mathematics, logic, and natural law. He was appointed Extraordinary Professor of Mathematics in 1746. In 1756, he took the position of Professor of Mathematics and Physics at the University of Göttingen and was also Director of the Göttingen Observatory (1756–1800).

#### **HAUSEN, Christian August**

Born: 19 June 1693 in Dresden, Germany

Died: 2 May 1743 in Leipzig, Germany

Mathematician/Physicist

Phil. Diss. (1713), Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg on *De corpore scissuris figurisque non cruentando ductu* [On the features of the body which should not be disfigured by clefts (cuts) and figures].

Hausen was primarily a mathematician and wrote texts on the elements of mathematics and the geometry of ellipses, but he is also known for his work in physics on electricity, and like many mathematicians has had a crater on the moon named after him. He is sometimes confused with his father, whose name was also Christian August Hausen and who obtained a doctorate in theology at Halle-Wittenberg University on *Ex Philologicis De Asiarchis* under Christian Andreas Siber in 1683.

Hausen was the son of a Lutheran pastor, and became Extraordinary Professor of Mathematics in 1714 at the University of Leipzig. In 1726 he was made Professor of Mathematics, remaining in this position for the rest of his life. His writings received some critical approval, including in particular his *Elementa Matheseos* (Leipzig, 1734). Abraham Kästner was probably thinking of this work when he said: “Professor Hausen gave lectures on his *Elementa* free of charge, as no-one wanted to listen to the arithmetic, euclidian geometry and conic sections in them; but even when given without charge to all who came there were sometimes only two or three people in the audience. I myself attended all his private sessions on Wolff’s *Basic Principles of Mathematics*, Hamberger’s *Physics*, where most of the time was spent refuting it, and Newton’s *Arithmetica Universalem*.” Kästner further remarked that these lectures were unusually clear, but Hausen, quite justifiably, demanded of his students that they should make every effort to understand them for themselves. “If he were asked a question, he would always reply with a helpful answer, but one that still left the student with a great deal to work out for himself.” Kästner’s remarks concerning Hausen’s lectures, and the poor attendance record of his students, gives some indication of how wretched a state the study of mathematics and astronomy had sunk to in Leipzig, the place where *Acta Eruditorum* had first appeared (see below), and where such prominent scholars as Gottfried Wilhelm Leibnitz and the Bernoulli brothers had once chosen to publish their work.

**WICHMANNSHAUSEN, Johann Christoph**

Born: 3 October 1663 in Ilsenburg, Germany

Died: 17 January 1727 likely in Wittenberg, Germany

Orientalist/Librarian

Phil. Disp. (1685), University of Leipzig on *Disputationem moralem de divortiiis secundum jus naturae* (A moral argument on divorce according to the law of nature).

Wichmannshausen was primarily an orientalist, but his thesis was on a topic in ethics. He was not only Otto Mencke’s student but also, apparently, Mencke’s son-in-law. Wichmannshausen began his studies in classical and oriental philology at the University of Leipzig in 1683. He achieved his Master of Philosophy degree in 1688, and spent the next four years traveling. In 1699 he was named Professor of Oriental Studies at Wittenberg University, and in 1712 was also given the duties of University Librarian. His numerous papers and treatises, all in Latin and mainly in the field of Hebraic archaeology, were later seen to be mostly worthless.

**MENCKE, Otto**

Born: 22 March 1644 in Oldenberg (East Friesland), Germany

Died: 18 January 1707 in Leipzig, Germany

Jurist/Literary Historian/Theologian

Member, Prince’s Society of Saxony (1700)

Phil. Disp. (1668) in philosophy, University of Leipzig on *Ex Theologia Naturali — De Absoluta Dei Simplicitate, Micropolitiam, id est Rempublicam in Microcosmo Conspicuum* [From Natural Theology — On the Perfect Simplicity of God, the Micro-state, i.e. the Remarkable/Visible (administration of the) State in the Microcosm]. He also presented a thesis defended in 1668 on *Disputatio Politico De Acquisitione Originaria Juris in Persona*, which was required for lecturing in law at the College of Jurisprudence, and later presented a dissertation on *Exercitatio Theologica* to obtain a *Magister Artium* degree in theology (awarded in 1671 by Leipzig University).

Mencke was the eldest son of the merchant and councilor Johann M. Mencke, and a cousin of the jurist Lüder. He attended, first, the Latin School in his native town, then high school in Bremen before moving to Leipzig University to devote himself to philosophy, where he received his Bachelor's degree in 1662 and his Master's degree two years later. He then moved on to the University of Jena for a six-month period to study theology, where he also received a Master's degree, after which he moved back to Leipzig in order to continue his theological studies, and also began his studies in jurisprudence. After a short trip back to visit his native town, followed by travels in Holland, Mencke settled in Leipzig as a Lecturer at the University, joining the Faculty of Philosophy in 1667, and a year later began lecturing at the small College of Jurisprudence. By 1669 he was already Professor of Moral and Political Philosophy, and in 1670 he also received a Bachelor's degree in theology and a Master's degree the following year.

In addition to his philosophical lectures, he also gave lectures on history, and on juridical works such as Grotius's *Jus Belli et Pacis*, as well as the German *Jus Publicum*. Although these lectures were enthusiastically received, Mencke's lasting fame rests on his founding of the learned journal *Acta Eruditorum*, the first work of its kind to appear in Germany. Under the stimulus of a French critical periodical *Le Journal des Savants*, which had been in existence since 1666, Mencke decided to make a proposal to the membership of a literary society, the *Collegium Gellianum*. This was to the effect that since the members were meeting regularly every week to discuss and make judgments on new books as they came out, their deliberations ought to appear in printed form to reach a wider audience. The proposal was accepted, and with this end in view Mencke undertook to visit Holland and England (in 1680), with a view to winning the support of foreign scholars through personal acquaintance. He subsequently met with such scholars as Graevius in Utrecht; Gronovius in Leyden; Henschenius and Papebroek, the co-authors of the *Acta Sanctorum*, in Antwerp; Nicholas Heinsius in den Haag; and, in England, he formed close relationships with John Wallis in Oxford and Isaac Vossius in London. On his return Mencke established a regular exchange of letters with scholars in France and in Italy, and began work on *Acta Eruditorum* with his friends in Leipzig, who would frequent his house for this purpose. The first volume comprising twelve monthly installments appeared in January 1682. This first volume embraced all faculties of the university, and included contributions from a wide range of scholars, such as the theologians Valent, Alberti, Johann Benedict Carpzov, Thomas Ittig, Johann Cyprian, Abraham Rechenberg, and Romanus Teller, while the jurists included Heinrich Samuel Eckhold and Friedrich Benedict Carpzov. From the medical faculty there came Michael Etmüller and Johann Bohn, whilst there was a philosopher, A.G. Heshusius, a

philologist, Johann Olearius, and a mathematician, Christian Pfauz. Foreign scholars also contributed, among them the English astronomer, John Flamsteed and the French physician, Jacques Spon. In later volumes the contributors were to include Leibnitz, who first made public his differential calculus in *Acta Eruditorum*, the physicist, von Tischenhausen, and also Bernoulli and von Seckendorf.

With the publication of *Acta Eruditorum* in 1682, Mencke initiated a new era in the widespread diffusion of enlightened thought by the use of printed periodical journals. In his monthly journal he would report (in Latin) on the very latest scientific developments gleaned from the international book market in compressed form to indicate their content, along with giving extracts from the work in question, followed by reviews from representatives of the Leipzig early enlightenment. The journal soon gained a European reputation, reaching many universities and capital cities of Western and Southern Europe. Although Mencke himself contributed very little actual material, he coordinated the project as a whole, dealing with all the correspondence, procuring the books to be discussed, and assigning them to the various collaborators. Twenty-five annual volumes along with three supplementary volumes appeared during his lifetime. *Acta Eruditorum* continued to be published under Mencke's son, the history professor Johann Burkhard Mencke until 1732, and after that by his grandson, Friedrich Otto Mencke until 1754, under the title *Nova Acta Eruditorum*, and finally, in the name of and at the expense of the Mencke family, the journal was continued by R.A. Bel up to the volume for 1776, which finally appeared in 1782. The complete series, including the supplementary volumes, comprises 117 volumes.

Mencke was honoured in 1697 with an appointment as *Decemvir*, i.e., he was appointed to serve as one of a ten-member governing board of the University of Leipzig, and in 1700 he became a member of the prestigious Prince's Society (*Fürstencollegium*).

#### **MOSSDORF, Christoph**

Born: early 1600s in Germany

Died: late 1600s in Germany

Likely a Theologian/Moral Philosopher

#### **Acknowledgements**

Sources used for obtaining the information given above include personal recollections, biographical works, and, amongst others, web sites at the Universities of Halle-Wittenberg, Göttingen, and Leipzig, the mathematics genealogy project ([www.genealogy.ams.org](http://www.genealogy.ams.org)) and the history of mathematics ([www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk](http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk)). Special thanks are due to Sid Trembl of Ottawa for assistance with German sources, Robert Derry of Lisgar Collegiate, Ottawa for the English translations of Latin thesis and book titles, and, especially, Roy Clark of Ottawa for English translations of German biographical texts from the *General German Biography (ADB)*.

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