

MATHEMATICS TEACHER

The May 1968 NJMT journal, Volume XXV No.4 was known as the Albert E. Meder edition with eight tributes to Dean Meder upon his retirement from Rutgers University.

On the following pages are two tributes as they were published in this edition. The first tribute on Page B is by Julius H. Hlavaty, President of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and long time friend of Al Meder. The second tribute on Pages C through G is by Mary C. Rogers, member of the AMTNJ Executive Board for many years and former President of AMTNJ who served on the NCTM Board of Directors and also as NCTM Vice President.



Albert E. Meder
AMTNJ President #22 1935-1936

SETS, SINNERS, AND SALVATION

JULIUS H. HLAVATY

President, National Council Teachers of Mathematics

Today nobody much remembers that there was a time before the revolution in mathematics. The Report of the Commission on Mathematics is like the Dead Sea Scrolls — the root of mathematics education today, but not sufficiently known.

Yet in 1955 when the College Entrance Examination Board became so concerned about mathematics education in the secondary schools that it appointed a Commission on Mathematics to look into the matter, there was great need both for a new look at the program and for a man to lead the profession in finding out what the new dispensation should be and to carry the message to the heathen.

Al Meder, as Chairman of the Committee on Examinations of CEEB, was already aware of the problem. He was persuaded to lead the battle as the St. Paul of the work, and Rutgers University graciously agreed to release his services temporarily. Al accepted the post of Executive Director of the Commission in 1957.

For the next year, and indeed long after, he led the Commission in its demanding task of examining the old curriculum, suggesting improvements, reviewing drafts and redrafts of recommendations, and—most important of all — carrying on an endless dialogue with friend and foe alike on the new road to be followed.

The miles Al Meder covered, the number of meetings he attended, the conversations he participated in, the speeches he delivered, (the title above is the title of one of his many talks) must reach into astronomical figures.

When Al returned to the Groves of Academe, he left the profession well started on the job of recreating a curriculum for mathematics instruction, of preparing sample texts for the newer courses (as in SMSG), of reorienting teachers to their new responsibilities (through various types of institutes, etc.), and so on.

These years of the "reform" in mathematical education have seen a phenomenal increase in the membership of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. At the same time, the Council has been able to increase its usefulness and helpfulness to its members. As President of NCTM, therefore, I know that the membership joins me in paying this tribute to the man who has made such notable contributions to mathematics education.

A Tribute to
Albert E. Meder, Jr.
Vice-Provost and Dean of Rutgers University

MARY C. ROGERS
Westfield, N. J.

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey is indeed happy to add this, their expression of friendship and esteem to the many honors being showered on *Dean Meder* upon the occasion of his retirement from active service in the field of Education.

Dean Meder is a member of our Association and has given invaluable and uninterrupted assistance to this organization over many years of its history.

A perusal of early programs brings to light his first appearance for the Association.

May 7, 1927 at Rutgers University
"The Unique Place of Complex Numbers"
Mr. Albert E. Meder, Jr.
New Jersey College for Women

The following year—May, 1928—he *joined* the Association. This is the *fortieth* anniversary of this initial membership.

Fifteen of his 1928 contemporaries have maintained interest in the Association during the intervening years; we believe them still to be members. We have been advised that both Dean Meder and you would be interested in a listing of these people. We have listed them according to years of Association membership.

Charles D. Wildrick, *Charter member*
Marian Lukens
Dr. Frank J. McMackin
Ida (Nadworney) Wakefield
Josephine Emerson
Dr. Amanda Loughren
Agnes Waring
Dr. Carl N. Shuster
George Garthwaite
Ferdinand Kertes
Agnes Rose
Ida Housman
Gertrude Alden
Dr. Emory P. Starke
Cyril A. Nelson

On March 1, 1930 Dean Meder's name again appears on Association programs

"Fundamental Definitions in Trigonometry"
Professor Albert E. Meder, Jr.
New Jersey College for Women

In May 1935, he became President of the Association. The topic of his first meeting as President was:

"Requirements of the College Entrance Examination Board"

He became an official of this Board and maintained leadership on it for about twenty years.

As the Association grew in numbers and expanded in service, interest in an Association *publication* demanded attention. A special committee was set up with *Dean Meder* as chairman. At the November 13, 1937 meeting, he presented with recommendations:

"Report of the Special Committee on Publications"

It was decided to publish a Yearbook; *Dean Meder* was appointed Editor-in-Chief.

On May 6, 1939, the *first* Yearbook was presented to the membership. Its immediate purpose was:

"To commemorate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Organization of the Association."

Assisting Dean Meder with this important document were:

Andrew S. Hegeman
Ferdinand Kertes
Dr. Amanda Loughren

Three Yearbooks followed — the last one combined with an Association Bulletin.

The Bulletin had made its initial appearance during 1940-1941 and was published three times each year. In 1945 it was replaced by the current New Jersey Mathematics Teacher.

In the last Yearbook, there appeared a "Digest of the Report of the Committee on Pre-Induction Training in Mathematics."

This committee was under the direction of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. *Dean Meder* was one of its representatives in *New Jersey*.

During the 1940-1941 administration, four Association Sections were organized to supplement the regular programs of the parent organization. Three of these represented geographic areas.

A fourth Section under the direction of *Dean Meder* provided special programs and offerings in Higher Mathematics. The Dean initiated Section Four activities with an address to Association membership on "The High School Teacher's Interest in a Background of Higher Mathematics."

Section Four activities continued for about ten years—from 1940 to 1950.

In 1945 an Auditing Committee was appointed to provide annual inspection of the Association's financial records.

Dean Meder served as Association *auditor* for about fifteen years.

Directly following World War II, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics organized a Post-War Policies Commission to examine current Mathematics programs, to study needs created by the War, and to make recommendations for the improvement of Mathematics Education on all levels. New Jersey was represented on this Commission by Dr. Virgil S. Mallory of Montclair.

Almost simultaneously, New Jersey set its own Post-War Commission, its first meeting being held February 17, 1945. This Commission represented the four levels of Mathematics Education—Elementary School, Junior High School, Senior High School and College—and drew its personnel from the various parts of New Jersey. It worked closely with the National Council and with the New Jersey Department of Education.

The New Jersey Post-War Policies Commission functioned for about four years, making periodic reports and specific recommendations to the teachers of New Jersey.

Dean Meder served with the *College* section of this Commission, correlating his work here with the programs of Section Four—building a background for reforms which were to follow in later years.

As an adjunct of this Commission's work, the New Jersey Education Association organized a Mathematics Conference Committee and sponsored a series of Mathematics meetings throughout New Jersey in 1947.

Dean Meder was one of the principal speakers at these meetings, presenting such topics as

"What's Ahead in Secondary School Mathematics?"
"Modern Arithmetic and the Secondary School Program"
and
"Critical Examination and Re-evaluation of Content
in High School College Preparatory Courses"

In the late 1940's the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey became affiliated with the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

In 1950, a Coordinating Committee was organized in New Jersey to serve as a liaison group between the New Jersey Association and National Council and to advise the New Jersey Council in matters concerning National policies and programs. Certain past-presidents of the New Jersey Association comprised the personnel of this Committee.

In keeping with recognized trends and expressed interests throughout the country, the Committee recommended to the New Jersey Council that a *New Jersey Mathematics Institute* be formed.

Dean Meder invited such an Institute when formed to make the Rutgers campus its home base. Both the suggestion and the accompanying invitation were enthusiastically approved and accepted

Dean Meder served as Chairman of a Committee which organized the Institute and which set in motion services to interested Mathematics teachers.

Professor Emory P. Starke was appointed Director of the Institute.

Until the coming of the National Science Foundation, the Institute was jointly sponsored by Rutgers University and the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey.

For some time the College Entrance Examination Board had recognized the inadequacy of current offerings in Mathematics education at all levels. Existing programs were "badly adapted to the actual needs of students."

"Developments in mathematics itself, the importance of Mathematics in general education, and the shifting needs of science and technology required that there be adopted new points of view — and that certain topics, once of importance—be replaced by others currently considered of even greater importance."

In consideration of these objectives the College Entrance Examination Board established a Commission on Mathematics with *Dean Meder* as its director.

Quoting from an early communication of the Commission:

Albert E. Meder, Jr. is on leave during 1957 from Rutgers University, where he is dean of administration and professor of Mathematics, to serve as Executive Director of the Commission on Mathematics, an activity of the College Entrance Examination Board.

Dean Meder called together, as leaders in the Commission, the most outstanding Mathematics educators country-wide.

But he did not overlook the people for whom the new program would be most important and helpful—local department chairmen and classroom teachers. Representatives from these groups also studied the findings of the Commission and reported back their reactions.

Dean Meder was also available as speaker to a wide range of groups interested in education. Here he explained the new program and answered questions about it. He was never too busy to give advice to individuals who were keenly interested in the work.

Publications and brochures were sent out periodically with specific suggestions and with samples of units of work which could be used at once in the classroom. These were of great value to the alert mathematics educator and teacher.

Thus came into being the beginnings of today's Modern Mathematics.

Dean Meder and his co-workers were pioneers in this field. To them, the country — and the world — owes so very much.

In addition to all of this, *Dean Meder* has contributed much to the programs and services of the

American Mathematical Society
Mathematical Association of America

He was recently president of the New Jersey Section of the Association.

Over the years, *Dean Meder* was a member of the New Jersey Council — Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey — and was Advisor to it.

In 1950, *Dean Meder* was made *Permanent Member* of this group — a position which he held for about twelve years.

Dean Meder was an *active* member of the New Jersey Council. Minutes of the Council indicated that he was present at most Council meetings for many years. Furthermore, he served on all such committees—from time to time—as Committee on Arrangements, Publicity Committee, Program Committee, Membership Committee and many others. In addition to all this—whenever the Council needed a room for its deliberations, *Dean Meder* obtained that room and cleared its reservations with Rutgers University.

There were occasions when commitments of the Council required additional assistants and workers. This happened whenever the New Jersey Association was host to the National Council or met in joint session with other organizations.

Dean Meder always “pitched in” and helped secure these additional workers.

During the past sixteen years, two important Association anniversaries were observed and celebrated. The first was the occasion of the *One Hundredth Regular Meeting*.

Dean Meder not only helped plan the program for this meeting, but he also gave a resumé of past Association history with tributes to its leaders.

There had been a brief history of the Association in its Silver Anniversary Yearbook. The Council instructed that this history be brought up to date for publication in the Golden Anniversary issue of the *New Jersey Mathematics Teacher*.

Dean Meder was one of eleven Past-Presidents who worked on this assignment. An abbreviated history was prepared by this group; edited by Dr. Robert M. Walter and published in the February, 1964 *New Jersey Mathematics Teacher*.

Dean Meder was the principal speaker at the Golden Anniversary celebration. The topic which he presented was

$$\left| \sum_{n=1914}^{1964} F_n[A] \right|$$

This was a brilliant and scholarly message which recognized the New Jersey Association's current services toward the betterment of mathematics education; and which traced the development of these services in the interim since the inception of the organization.

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey is deeply grateful to *Dean Meder* for his wonderful and wise helpfulness during the past forty years. It thanks him for a friendship which is genuine and sincere. It congratulates him on his many high achievements. It extends to him infinite good wishes for many years of happy retirement in which his highest ideals and aspirations will be fulfilled through a continuation of active participation in the interests which have always been his.

I met Dean Meder at the spring meeting of AMTNJ in 1979 when I was inducted as President of AMTNJ. He is everything as stated in the tributes - a great person and leader. BTW, Meder gave me his original notes from his Golden Anniversary Celebration presentation . What a treasure to pass along to future members of AMTNJ. -- J. Michael Nuspl, AMTNJ President #66 1979-1980 --