

EJAM, ICIAM and Newton

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Although the *European Journal of Applied Mathematics* is a journal that has no official affiliation with any particular academic organisation, its aims overlap those of many institutes, centres, societies and, especially, conferences. Indeed, in our first ten years we have published three special issues related to conferences on topics that have been timely and important for the development of new mathematical ideas relevant to practical problems. Thus, when *ICIAM*, the world's largest industrial-and-applied mathematics conference, took place in Edinburgh, Scotland, in July 1999, we were only too happy to be associated with a gathering of so many people who all worked in the style of *EJAM*, and the organisers kindly allowed us to co-sponsor the conference reception. A highlight of this evening was Professor Graham Wilks¹ dramatic portrayal of Sir Isaac Newton, complete with apple. Accompanied by his wife, Graham sang the following verse.

Isaac Newton's career profile

(sung to the Major General's song from HMS Pinafore by Gilbert and Sullivan)

My work is the epitome of Maths that is applicable,
With contributions optical, celestial and dynamical.
I'm very well acquainted with all matters mathematical,
I understand equations both the simple and quadratical,
I know the basic functions logarithmic, algebraical,
And rattle off with ease the sums of series arithmetical.
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot of news,
With many cheerful facts about the square on the hypotenuse.

'Twas I invented integral and differential calculus,
And helped to solve the riddles of astronomer Copernicus.
In short in matters optical, celestial and dynamical,
My work is the epitome of Maths that is applicable.

This apple that fell from a tree assured my place in history.
It was that blow inspired my law of universal gravity,
Whereby the force to product mass is directly proportional,
And inverse square related to the distance separational.
It showed planetary orbits to be precisely elliptical,

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Whereas projectile motion is merely parabolical.
In truth it set the scene to boldly travel interplanetary,
And search for other forms of life existing in our galaxy.

Some say my laws of dynamics are equally as seminal,
A body remains at rest or in motion rectilinear,
Unless acted on by outside forces, extracorporeal.
My second law is at the heart of all things kinematical,
When sums of applied forces give mass times acceleration,
And last, to every action is an opposite reaction.
In truth, when I'm assessed against the giants of posterity,
My mathematics is the best since Euclidean geometry.

You will find my work presented in my opus - the Principia.
I did it all without the help of Wolfram's Mathematica.
In short in matters optical, celestial and dynamical,
My work is the epitome of Maths that is applicable.

A companion verse about the conference itself will shortly appear in the Gazette of the Australian Mathematical Society.