

him and he told me he was knitting a Möbius band: a far from straightforward task. Later Walter Ledermann joined us and recalled how someone in the Mathematics Department at Berlin University had succeeded in doing this some twenty-five years earlier.

My colleague, Brian Griffiths, who, when Turing came to Manchester in 1948, had just become a research student there, has other memories of Turing. In those early years he was a regular attendee at, and frequently a heated contributor to, the research seminars. In 1951 he gave a series of lectures to staff and research students on computer programming – probably a world ‘first’. Earlier he had started to give a third-year undergraduate course on number theory. However, his stammer proved too troublesome and the course had to be completed by Dr Ledermann. The stammer deterred Turing from giving further undergraduate courses. Although a reserved person, both Brian and I found that when approached he proved a friendly and interested conversationalist. Brian also recalls the stir in the Department when it was learned that Turing now had a machine that would solve cubic equations! Walter Ledermann, now in his mid-90s, recently told me that this or a similar machine could also play ‘God save the Queen’ – or possibly ‘God save the King’, since he cannot now recall the exact year when he was given a demonstration.

Yours sincerely,

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DEAR EDITOR,

How the wheel turns! Alex Pathan and Tony Collyer [1] ‘were fascinated by the paper [2] by Di Domenico’ on a property of triangles involving area. One of them was reminded ‘of some work carried out some 30 years ago’ on which their paper was based.

I in my turn was reminded of what I learned at school in New Zealand some 65 years ago! I have confirmed this by consulting my much battered textbook of those days: *A New Trigonometry for Schools* by W. G. Borchardt and A. D. Perrott, London 1912. In three chapters, all of which we covered in great detail, the book develops a host of results of the type given. No doubt there were many other textbooks of that period which did the same.

References

1. Alex Pathan and Tony Collyer, Area properties of triangles revisited, *Math. Gaz.* **89** (November 2005) pp. 495–497.
2. Angelo S. Di Domenico, A property of triangles involving area, *Math. Gaz.* **87** (July 2003) pp. 323–324.

Yours sincerely,

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