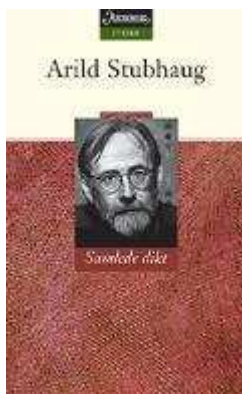




Special lecture: statsstipendiat Arild Stubhaug (Oslo) on policies in mathematics around 1916 and the Swedish mathematician Gösta Mittag-Leffler (1846-1927)

We have the pleasure to invite the well-known poet and biographer of the famous Norwegian mathematicians Abel and Lie, Arild Stubhaug, to a special lecture on the Swede Gösta Mittag-Leffler and his famous institute.

The lecture will be held within our workshop on the internationalisation of mathematics on **Friday, May 25** (see separate invitation on the website of AUC, faculty of science). Arild's presentation is going to be in English (see back of the page!)



Title of Arild's talk:

The father of Swedish mathematics, Gösta Mittag-Leffler (1846-1927), and the establishment of an international mathematical institute in the shadows of the World War



Gösta Mittag-Leffler



Mittag-Leffler Institute for Mathematics of the Swedish Academy of Sciences today in Djursholm near Stockholm

Place: room B1 007 (Knut Hamsun auditorium, main building)

Time: 10.00 – 11.00 + 30 minutes discussion, **Friday, May 25, 2007**

Arild will give us a first glimpse of his book on Gösta Mittag-Leffler, which is going to appear this autumn both in Norwegian and Swedish, and next year in English as well. He has been working on the manuscript for five years, mostly in Stockholm, both at the Mittag-Leffler-Institute itself and in the Archives of the Royal Library there, where the private papers of ML, among other things his very valuable diaries, are stored.

Abstract of Arild's talk:

The talk starts with a short overview of the life and scientific and organisational work of the famous mathematician, whose career was largely based on his international connections, particularly to German, French, and Finnish mathematicians. The main part of the presentation is devoted to the foundation, around 1916, of the international mathematical research institute in Stockholm-Djursholm, which is still an important centre today and is named after Mittag-Leffler. It will be shown that Mittag-Leffler continued throughout the World War his policies of supporting international mathematical communication, which he had pursued with his journal "Acta Mathematica" since 1882. Based on rich archival sources in Stockholm, the investigation shows the deeper motives for ML's longings for a rapprochement of the opponents in the war, particularly the French and the Germans. These motives lay particularly in ML's fear of Russian imperialism, both pre-revolutionary and Bolshevik, which was closely intertwined with ML's deep interest in the situation of Finland as a nation and in the Finnish-Swedish relations. The talk will show that ML's strong and international business interests played a role in his political outlook as well. As to the revival of international mathematical communication after the war, ML's disappointment about broken promises to give the next international congress after 1912 to Scandinavia contributed to his reservation against the scientific boycott policies of the Entente states.