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Edited by Vadim Ponomarenko

Recent papers read before the ASSOCIATION and the SOCIETY indicate that renewed interest is apparent in all phases of mathematical history. Hence, no apology is needed for the publication of notes such as the following:

In *Nature*, December 3, 1914, p. 363, Professor CAJORI showed that the cross × as a symbol of multiplication, which is said in histories to occur first in William Oughtred's *Clavis mathematicae* (1631), is given in form of the letter x and X in Edward Wright's translation of John Napier's *Mirifici logarithmorum canonis descriptio*, second edition, London, 1618, where we read, page 4: "The note of addition is (+), of subtracting (−), of multiplying (×)." This is taken from a part of the book headed "Appendix to the Logarithmes," the authorship of which is not given but is believed now most probably to be attributed to William Oughtred.

In 1902 Professor W. W. BEMAN pointed out (*L'Intermédiaire des mathématiciens*, T. 9, Paris, p. 229, question 2424) that the colon (:) occurs as the symbol for geometric ratio at the end of the tables in Oughtred's *Trigonometria* of 1657. Professor CAJORI has found that the colon was so used by the astronomer Vincent Wing in 1651, 1655 and 1656 and by a Suffolk schoolmaster with the initials "R. B." in 1655.

The first designation of the sides of a triangle by the same letters, respectively, as the angles opposite, one group of letters being capitals A, B, C, and the other group small letters a, b, c, has been attributed to Leonhard Euler (*Histoire de l'académie de Berlin, année*, 1753, p. 231), but Professor CAJORI finds that it occurs in a pamphlet containing trigonometric formulas published by Richard Rawlinson of Queen's College, Oxford, sometime between 1655 and 1668.

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