

1. *Assignment*
 - a. We'll have time in the course for discussion of another topics. Suggestions?
2. *Humorous writing*
 - a. Occasionally there's an opportunity for humorous writing in mathematics.
 - b. One possibility is in newsletters, already discussed.
 - c. I won't dwell on this; I mention only a short paper *Mashers Mathematical*, which Dan Wheeler and I authored for the MAA undergraduate journal *Math Horizons* targeted at undergraduates. There's a link to it on this course's home page. Its story line emerged from my hobby of collecting examples of domestic tools whose designs incorporate symmetries of various types. I displayed some of them once somewhat flamboyantly in the ninth-floor hallway, and Dan decided to one-up me. The story emerged in a flash after he showed me his drawing of a Hilbert masher! The title is a pun: according to my dictionary, a masher is also a "man who flirts or attempts familiarities, usually with women unknown to him."
3. *Digging for sources*
 - a. We continued researching the source of Sylvester's theorem.
 - b. By searching *JStor* further we found the paper Prof. Ardila had consulted: Gilbert 1991. During that and related searches we learned that we should use the term Sylvester's *criterion*.
 - c. Idea: find a book on Sylvester. Googling and/or Amazon revealed two by Parshall. Searching the SFSU library Investigator site indicated that these were accessible here. I checked them out. (An Investigator search for subject or title "Sylvester, James J." would have yielded this too.) One of them, Parshall 1998, listed determinants in the index, which led to a footnote, which suggested looking for a paper by Sylvester in his collected works, volume 1, around page 364.
 - d. That's good news, because if Sylvester published this criterion, his paper should be accessible somewhere in the collected works.
 - e. Collected works, if old and notable enough, are often online now. I demonstrated use of the website
<http://www.mathematik.uni-bielefeld.de/~rehmann/DML/dml links author B.html>.
I think this is a service of the European Mathematical Union, run by the University of Bielefeld in Germany. It is a reliable list of books and journals that have been retrodigitalized and placed online. It lists those on academic sites in Poland, France, Germany, and the U.S., but perhaps not some on commercial sites. Accessing some of the sites requires identifying yourself as an SFSU student by connecting via the SFSU Internet portal or by setting your browser to use the SFSU library proxy site.

- f. DML listed Sylvester's collected works as accessible through the University of Michigan and provided a link.
- g. Michigan said it had three volumes, and we tried the first, with no success, and ran out of time.
- h. After class I determined that Michigan had only volumes 2 to 4. We must look elsewhere.