

Seminar SAW
Seminar History and Philosophy of Mathematics – 2011-2016

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Historical approaches to the history of indeterminate analysis

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Remarks on the historiography of the Chinese remainder theorem in the 19th and 20th century

Abstract - In *Jottings on the science of the Chinese. Arithmetic* (hereafter abbreviated to *Jottings*), which the protestant missionary Alexander Wylie published in 1852, he presented for the first time to a European audience elements of a history of indeterminate analysis in China. His publication also included an outline of a comparison with Sanskrit sources Ulrich Libbrecht has analyzed the reception of this part of Wylie's book, showing how it had been mistranslated and thus misinterpreted. Ulrich Libbrecht has further examined the most significant contribution to this field in China, in the 13th century mathematical book by Qin Jiushao. The talk intends to examine the historiographic principles that have presided over the analysis of Qin Jiushao's work in these various publications, and the part the topic of indeterminate analysis has played in the European historiographies of mathematics in ancient China and of indeterminate analysis