Committee to Select the Winner of the Cole Prize

General Description
· Committee is standing
· Number of members is usually three
· A new Committee is appointed for each award

These prizes were founded in honor of Professor Frank Nelson Cole, who served as secretary of the AMS (1896-1920) and as editor-in-chief of the *Bulletin* of the AMS (1899-1920). The original fund was donated by Professor Cole from moneys presented to him on his retirement, was augmented by contributions from members of the Society, and was later doubled by his son, Charles A. Cole. The present endowment is $5,000. The prizes are awarded under restrictions similar to those for the Bôcher Prize.

Principal Activities
There are two awards, one made every three years at the Annual (January) Meeting. The award is made for a notable research memoir in algebra or number theory which has appeared in the last six years. Either the recipient is a member of the Society or the Memoir is published in a recognized North American journal.

The Committee recommends a winner. The award is approved by the Council of the AMS, approval being delegated to the Executive Committee. See the report below from Halmos and Hochster that the Council adopted as procedure.

The award is supplemented by a Steele Prize from the AMS under the name of the Cole Prize. This is a matter of no concern to the selection committee.

Report of a subcommittee of the EC
A subcommittee of the EC consisting of Halmos and Hochster have written the following report.

**COLLOQUIUM LECTURERS, GIBBS LECTURERS, PRIZE WINNERS**
A report of a subcommittee of the EC

Certain of the Council's decisions (the selection of the Colloquium and Gibbs lectures and the selection of the recipients of the Society's prizes) have traditionally been delegated to special committees and then routinely approved by the EC. The procedure has not been totally satisfactory. (In most cases the EC gave rubber stamp approval, sometimes recommending committee didn't even produce its nominee's CV.)

As a compromise between, in effect, doing the work of the special committees (undesirable interference) and merely being informed of their decisions (insufficient supervision), the subcommittee recommends that the EC in the future use a system of combined input and pre-approval, as follows:

The special committees should submit to the EC their semifinal short list of choices (ordinarily two or three names for each slot), together with a one-page summary of the
documentation justifying each name on the list, and to do so before receiving preliminary acceptable from the suggested nominees. The system should not be inflexible: if, for instance, the special committee feels strongly that there is a single obvious choice, it will suffice that that fact be communicated to the EC. For the Gibbs Lecturers, it would be desirable for the selection committee to provide some insight into the mathematical component of the proposed lecturers' work, not merely his credentials within his own area.

The EC should then comment on each name (“acceptable”, “unacceptable”, “excellent”), and possibly even suggest another name or two for the special committee's consideration. The final choice is to be left to the special committee. The EC is to be informed of it, but need no longer approve it.

**Other Activities**

**Equal Opportunities for Women**

The Business Meeting of the January 19, 1972 passed the following resolution:

Resolved that:

1. The American Mathematical Society will work actively for equal opportunities for women in the following areas:
   a. employment at all levels: this will include the search for a recruitment of qualified women.
   b. advancement and tenure in academic positions.
   c. admissions to graduate schools.
   d. graduate and postdoctoral fellowships and assistantships.
   e. membership on advisory boards and panels; and
2. The Society will include more women on
   a. Society programs and panels, including invited speakers and section chairmen.
   b. Society committees and governing boards.

The Council of August 29, 1972 instructed the Secretary to call part two of the resolution regularly to the attention of individuals in charge of various parts of Society programs.

The Secretary proposes to do this by distributing this sheet from time to time as follows:

- Colloquium Editorial Committee
- Committee on Summer Institutes
- Committee on Applied Mathematics
- Organizing Committees for Institutes, Seminars, and Symposia
- Associate Secretaries

He asks in turn that the Associate Secretaries see that their Section Program Committee and the organizers of informal sessions and chairmen of invited twenty minute papers receive copies.
**Miscellaneous Information**

The business of this committee can be done by mail, electronic mail, or telephone, expenses which may be reimbursed by the Society.

A call for nominations should be published in the two issues of the *Notices* prior to the committee's deadline. It should look something like this:

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**Call for Nominations**

for

**Cole Prize**

The Selection Committee for the Cole Prize requests nominations for consideration for the 20xx Award. There are two Cole Prize awards, one made every six years at the Annual (January) Meeting. The award is made for notable research memoir in algebra or number theory which has appeared in the last three years. Either the recipient is a member of the Society or the Memoir is published in a recognized North American Journal.

Nominations, with supporting information should be sent to (Secretary, mailing address)

The deadline for nominations is ________.

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**Note to the Chair**

Committee chairs should be informed, at the beginning of each fiscal period, of the budget of their committees and cautioned to remain within the budget. Such items as travel reimbursement, accommodations, and meals for guests of any kind fall within these budgets.

Work done by committees on recurring problems may have value as precedent or work done may have historical interest. Because of this, the Council has requested that a central file system be maintained for the Society by the Secretary. Committees are reminded that a copy of every sheet of paper should be deposited (say once a year) in this central file. Confidential material should be noted, so that it can be handled in a confidential manner.

**Authorization**

10/05/89
updated 3/91; 12/92; 3/94; 8/94; 5/95; 5/01, 12/01; 1/03; 8/09; 7/13 edited Note to the Chair
Past Members
A list of past and current members is available at

Past Winners: Cole Prize in Number Theory

Past Winners: Cole Prize in Algebra

AMS Websites:
http://www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/ams-prizes/cole-prize-number-theory

http://www.ams.org/profession/prizes-awards/ams-prizes/cole-prize-algebra