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Acadia University, Wolfville, NS B0P 1X0, Canada. *Hermite and Jacobi*. Preliminary report.

Charles Hermite (1822-1901) began his research career by successfully extending Jacobi's theory of elliptic functions. Jacobi, by then well-established, responded with encouragement and interest, setting Hermite on a path which would make him one of France's most important pure mathematicians of his time as well as its leading promoter of interest in German mathematical research. In this paper we discuss Hermite's early work, emphasizing Jacobi's influence, and examining its relation to some of his mature work. We also discuss the position of Hermite in the French mathematical community of his day, and consider the events leading to his appointment to the Acadmie des Sciences. (Received September 20, 2000)