1056-Z1-1613   **Dominic W Klyve*** (`dklyve@carthage.edu`), 2001 Alford Park Dr., Department of Mathematics, Kenosha, WI 53140, and **Anna Lauren**. *Uncovering Buffon's Essai d'Arithmetique Morale.* Preliminary report.

Georges-Louis Leclerc, le Comte de Buffon was best known as a naturalist, and played a pivotal role in the foundation of the modern fields of natural history and geology. As a small supplement to his massive "l'Histoire Naturelle", he included a small essay on moral arithmetic (the *Essai d'Arithmetique Morale*), which includes some of the earliest known work applying the rules of probability to the lives and decisions of human beings.

Possibly because this essay appeared as a supplement to a larger work, it received less attention than his natural historical writings, and even today is often discussed only briefly in modern histories of mathematics. In this talk, we will uncover Buffon's work, demonstrate some of the fascinating insights he had into probability, and seek to grant him some of the reputation he richly deserves. (Received September 22, 2009)