

1158-97-32

Bogdan D. Suceavă* (bsuceava@fullerton.edu), Department of Mathematics, Cal State Fullerton, 800 N. College Blvd., Fullerton, CA 92834. *From Gheorghe Tzitzeica's Contest of the 'Mathematical Gazette' to the 1980s Version of the Mini-Contest: Explorations of an Interesting Idea in Mathematical Education.*

The classical contest of the Bucharest-based 'Mathematical Gazette' was designed in the early 20th century to identify and motivate young mathematicians. The heart and soul of this extensive editorial and educational project was a doctoral student of Gaston Darboux (1842–1917), namely Gheorghe Tzitzeica (1873–1939), who was a full professor of geometry at the University of Bucharest (1903–1937), while he served as editor-in-chief of the 'Gazette'. Today, Tzitzeica is remembered as the esteemed founder of a research direction called affine differential geometry. When the 'Gazette's tradition in organizing contests during the summer (different than the math olympiads) was revived in the 1980s, mainly through the vision of Nicolae Teodorescu (1908–2000), a new component was added to the summer school of the 'Mathematical Gazette': the Mini-Contest. We will describe this idea and its philosophy, and we will illustrate it with examples from that period. This Eastern European experience is of particular interest for its active learning component and the high level of student involvement in the overall creative process. (Received February 09, 2020)