

Meeting: 1007, Santa Barbara, California, SS 2A, Special Session on History of Mathematics

1007-01-72 **Karen V. H. Parshall*** (khp3k@virginia.edu), Department of Mathematics, P. O. Box 400137, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4137. *James Joseph Sylvester: A Jewish Mathematician in Victorian England.*

James Joseph Sylvester, the flamboyant, nineteenth-century, Anglo-Jewish mathematician, is best remembered today as one of the founders of invariant theory, as an early contributor to the theory of algebras, and as a combinatorialist. His mathematical research took place, however, in the context of Victorian Britain (and from 1876 to 1883, in what one might call Victorian America), and his ability to do that research was profoundly affected by Victorian attitudes toward Judaism. This talk will explore not only Sylvester's sense of his Jewish identity but also the role his Jewishness played throughout the course of his long career. (Received February 02, 2005)