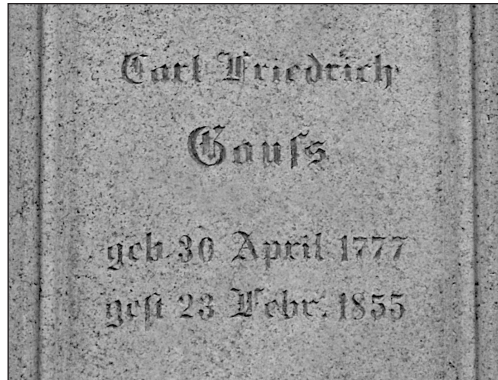


About the Cover

The grave of Carl Friedrich Gauss

All seems serene in the cemetery and park of St. Albani in Göttingen where Carl Friedrich Gauss and some of his family are interred.



But beneath the superficial serenity, ah! the soul of Gauss writhes in contemplation of how Danel Kehlmann has distorted his life in his recent novel whose English title is *Measuring the World*.

Frans Oort's review of Kehlmann's book in this issue is quite negative, as are some, but not all, of the other reviews of the original German edition by European mathematicians. These include an extremely critical one by Winfried Scharlau in the *Mitteilungen* of the German Mathematical Society, and one by Ivo Schneider in the *Mitteilungen* of the Gauss Gesellschaft of Göttingen. In view of the book's many faults, the intriguing question is, why has its original German edition been so popular? This is what Norbert Schappacher has tried to answer, with a somewhat more generous look at the book, in his review in the April 2006 issue of the *Mathematische Semesterberichte*.

Göttingen treats one of its most famous and respected inhabitants rather well. Much care was taken in erecting the original monument a few years after Gauss' death, and it has been well cared for since. The Gauss Gesellschaft was founded in 1962, and holds an annual meeting every fall to commemorate some aspect of his work, in addition to publishing its journal.

Our thanks to Benno Artmann for acting as guide in Göttingen, and to Axel Wittmann, president of the Gauss Gesellschaft, for information about Gauss' grave.

—Bill Casselman, Graphics Editor
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