

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

1007-01-53            **Mario U. Martelli\*** (mmartelli@mckenna.edu), Mathematics Department, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA 91711. *The life, mathematics, and untimely death of Renato Caccioppoli (1904-1959)*.

Renato Caccioppoli is certainly one of the most interesting and fascinating mathematicians of last century. Born in Naples on January 20, 1904, grandson of the Russian revolutionary Michail Bakunin, he grew surrounded by very sophisticated and well-educated friends. He received his degree in mathematics in 1925, became immediately Assistant of Mario Picone, and was promoted to Full Professor in 1931. Renato Caccioppoli was a brilliant mind. Mario Martone made a movie of his life: The death of a mathematician from Naples. The movie won several prizes, including a special prize at the Festival of Venice in 1992. An asteroid has been named after him. The Unione Matematica Italiana has instituted the "Premio Caccioppoli". The math department where he taught at the University of Naples has been renamed "Dipartimento di Matematica e Applicazioni Renato Caccioppoli". In this talk I will present some key events of his life and some important results of his work. I will also try to understand why he took his life in 1959. (Received January 17, 2005)