Contents

Foreword xi

Introduction xiii
1. Top-Tier Math Circles xiii
2. Why, What, and for Whom? xvi
3. Notation and Technicalities xx
4. The Art of Being a Mathematician and Problem Solving xxii
5. Acknowledgments xxiii

Session 1. Geometric Re-Constructions. Part I 1
1. Experimenting and Conjecturing 1
2. A Triangle Workout 5
3. Walking Along an Optimal Path 10
4. Walking Along an Integer Grid 14
5. To Prove or to Take for Granted? 16
6. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 20

Session 2. Rubik's Cube. Part II 23
1. What Is a Group? 23
2. Permutation Groups and Group Isomorphisms 27
3. Properties of Groups and Their Subgroups 31
4. Even and Odd Worlds 35
5. How Many Cube Positions Can Be Reached? 39
6. Conclusions 45
7. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 46

Session 3. Knotty Mathematics 49
1. A Knot, or Not a Knot. That Is the Question. 49
2. Reidemeister and Knot-Eating Machines 53
3. Three Crayons Defeat an Army of Knots 56
4. The Jones Polynomial 64
5. Is This the End? 70
6. Hints and Solutions to Selected Exercises 70

Session 4. $\mathcal{M}$ultiplicative Functions. Part I 79
1. Infinite Raffle: the Initial Setup 79
2. What are Multiplicative Functions? 82
3. Sum-Functions 92
4. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 96

Session 5. Introduction to Group Theory 103
1. Puzzling It Out 103
2. A Polynomial Prelude 104
3. Action Groups 105
4. General Groups 110
5. Some More Examples of Groups 112
6. Permutation (or Symmetric) Groups 116
7. The 15-Puzzle Puzzled Out 123
8. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 126

Session 6. Monovariants. Part II 141
1. Numerical Monovariants 141
2. Constructive Activities 149
3. Not Getting There 153
4. Conway's Checkers 158
5. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 164

Session 7. Geometric Re-Constructions. Part II 171
1. Optimal and Infinite Challenges 171
2. A Pythagorean Path for the Intermediate 173
3. Physics and Math Combine Forces 176
4. Ptolemy's Lead into Trigonometry 178
5. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 185

Session 8. Complex Numbers. Part II 189
1. Warning, "Teaser," and Strategy 189
2. Conventions from the Past 190
3. Complex Division 190
4. The Triangle Inequality: No "Respect" for Addition? 192
5. Integer Powers in $\mathbb{C}$ 193
6. Roots in $\mathbb{C}$ 196
7. Roots of Unity and Regular Polygons 198
8. Geometric Promise Fulfilled 200
9. Venturing Everywhere in the Plane 202
10. Which are the "Closest" Lines 205
11. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 208

Session 9. Introduction to Inequalities. Part I 211
1. The Language of Inequalities 211
2. Arithmetic Mean – Geometric Mean Inequality 212
3. Power Mean Inequality 216

4. The Land of the Convex 218
5. Applications of Convexity to Inequalities 220
6. Geometry Leftovers and a Mean Summary 223
7. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 225

Session 10. $\mathcal{M}$ultiplicative Functions. Part II 233
4. Dirichlet Product 233
5. Möbius Inversion Formula 237
6. The Euler Function $\boldsymbol{\phi(n)}$ 243
7. The Taming of the ShrewD $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ 247
8. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 252

Session 11. Monovariants. Part III 263
1. The Balkan Roots Challenge 263
2. Smoothing and Unsmoothing 264
3. Rearranging Terms 266
4. Convexity and Smoothing 268
5. Random Fun with Smoothing 275
6. Appendix on Limits and Endless Smoothing 278
7. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 281

Session 12. Geometric Re-Constructions. Part III 287
1. Farmer-and-Cow via Inequalities and Calculus 287
2. Optimal Bridge Located! 292
3. Infinitely Many Angles and Infinite Series 296
4. Historical Detour: from Today back to Archimedes? 301
5. Hints and Solutions to Selected Problems 302

Epilogue 305
1. What Comes from Within 305
2. The Culture of Circles 306
3. Eastern European vs. USA Math Circles 307
4. History and Power 310
5. Does the U.S. Need Top-Tier Math Circles? 314

Symbols and Notation 321

Abbreviations 325

Biographical Data 327

Bibliography 331

Credits 335

Index 337