DAVID BELLHOUSE, Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences, University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6A 5B7

A War of Words in Pictures: the dispute between Montmort and De Moivre over the probability calculus

In 1708 Pierre Rémond de Montmort published his book *Essay d'analyse sur les jeux de hazard*, an analysis of games of chance of the time using probability theory. Three years later Abraham de Moivre published his treatise *De Mensura Sortis* solving various problems in games of chance, again using probability theory. Montmort felt that De Moivre had plagiarized his work. In 1718 De Moivre published an expanded version of his original Latin treatise under the name *The Doctrine of Chances*. The dispute is described from surviving publications and letters. Both the *Essay d'analyse* and *The Doctrine of Chances* contain engravings that describe in pictures the nature and importance of their work. These pictures are analyzed in the context of the dispute.