

Meeting: 1002, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, SS 3A, Special Session on The History of Mathematics

1002-01-27 **Antonella Cupillari*** (axc5@psu.edu), School of Science, Penn State Erie, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563, and **Jessica Pflueger** (jpflueger1@verizon.net). *The Social Role of Temperance Arithmetic.*

The authors of contemporary mathematical textbooks for grades K-12 have been striving to make their work relevant to the students' out-of-class experiences, ethics, and environments. As a result, textbooks include more and more "real life" applications that try to cover and draw from a large variety of everyday situations. But is it possible that this reality-based approach is not so new (or even so encompassing) after all? What was covered in the textbooks from the 1800's? And have we considered in recent times the concept of "Temperance Arithmetic"? This is the subject of the 1889 booklet, *A Temperance Arithmetic for Schools and Families*, written by Julia McNair Wright. The slim volume offers a historical window on life in the United States in the period preceding the Prohibition and some interesting problems. (Received July 12, 2004)