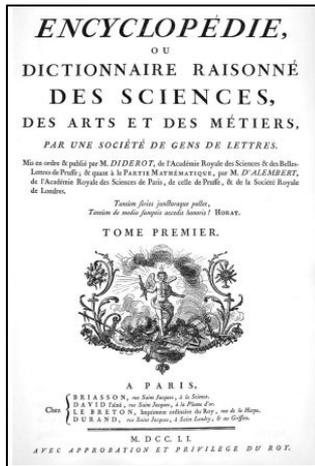


Today in Math History...

-5 October 1713

Denis Diderot born. His great “*Encyclopedie*” was published in 17 volumes of articles and 10 of splendid plates from 1751 to 1766. Jean-le-Rond D'Alembert was editor for mathematical subjects.



D'Alembert was a French mathematician who was abandoned as a baby on the steps of the church of St. Jean Baptiste de Rond. When he became a famous mathematician, he spurned the overtures of his mother who wished to make him part of her family. D'Alembert was a friend of Lagrange.

D'Alembert published “d'Alembert's principle” which was a powerful new interpretation of Newton's third law. He also studied physical astronomy, in which he solved the precession of the equinoxes, and was the first to find and solve the wave equation. His solution is now known as d'Alembert's solution in his honor.