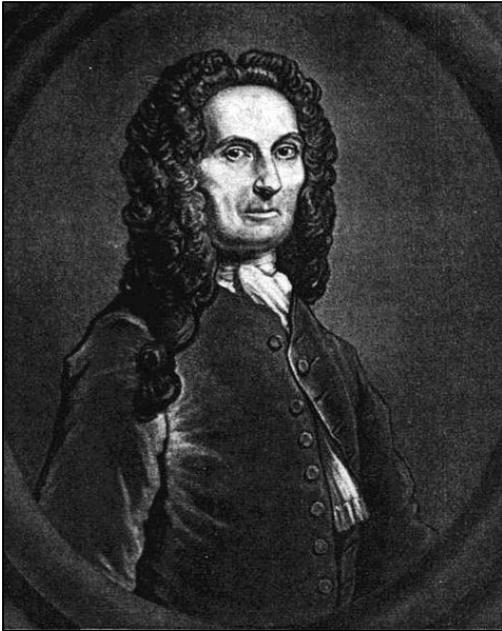


Today in Math History...



-27 November 1754

The mathematics tutor Abraham de Moivre succumbed, at the age of 87, to lethargy.

De Moivre wrote a book on probability theory, entitled "The Doctrine of Chances." It was said that his book was highly prized by gamblers. It is reported in all seriousness that De Moivre

correctly predicted the day of his own death. Noting that he was sleeping 15 minutes longer each day, De Moivre surmised that he would die on the day he would sleep for 24 hours. A simple mathematical calculation quickly yielded the date, November 27, 1754. He did indeed pass away on that day!