

Today in Math History...

-8 October 1662

Desargues died in Lyon, France.

He is known for his theorem in projective geometry.

Projective geometry is a non-metrical form of geometry. First developed by Desargues in the 17th century, it did not achieve prominence as a field of mathematics until the early 19th century through the work of Poncelet and others.

Projective geometry originated from the principles of perspective art.

Projective geometry is a non-Euclidean geometry that formalizes one of the central principles of perspective art: that parallel lines meet at infinity and therefore are to be drawn that way. In essence, a projective geometry may be thought of as an extension of Euclidean geometry in which the “direction” of each line is subsumed within the line as an extra “point,” and in which a “horizon” of directions corresponding to coplanar lines is regarded as a “line.”

