1014-N1-937 Christine Kinsey* (kinsey@canisius.edu), Department of Mathematics & Statistics, Canisius College, Buffalo, NY 14208, and Teresa Moore (moore@ithaca.edu), Department of Mathematics, 953 Danby Rd., Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY 14850. Mathematical literature and literary mathematics: Oulipo. Preliminary report.

The Oulipo (Ouvrior de Litterature Potentielle) was founded to join "the mathematician's delirium to the poet's logic". The founders were writer and amateur mathematician Raymond Queneau and mathematician Francois Le Lionnais, and the group, which includes writers Italo Calvino and Georges Perec and mathematician Claude Berge, remains active to this day, generating experimental literature and exploring some applications of mathematics, and structure in general, to literature. This talk serves as an introduction to the Oulipo and some of their works, such as Perec's Life: A User's Manual (modeled on a knight's tour on a chessboard) and Queneau's Foundations of Literature (modeled on Hilbert's Foundations of Geometry). (Received September 26, 2005)