

1106-VB-611      **Daniel J. Curtin\*** (curtin@nku.edu), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099. *Jan De Witt: The Equations for Curves.*

Jan De Witt's two-volume *Elementa curvarum linearum (Elements of Curves)* appeared as part of Frans van Schooten's famous Latin edition of Descartes' *Géométrie*. The second volume was the first systematic treatment of lines and conic sections to start with equations and then identify the known curve represented by the equation. This was a major step in moving towards the modern approach of starting with equations. Previously the usual starting point had been a geometric or mechanical definition of the curve. De Witt's examples are accessible to students with a pre-calculus background, being similar to what they already know. However, students would be challenged to think a bit more deeply about their knowledge of these basic curves. (Received September 03, 2014)