1145-01-1976   **Dominic Klyve*** (`klyved@cwu.edu`). *Moral Arithmetic: Decisions, values, and the likelihood of death from the Count de Buffon.* Preliminary report.

Buffon's work in mathematics has long been overlooked. His famous "needle problem", of course, is often mentioned, but this is presented more as a parlor trick than as a serious bit of mathematics. Buffon is best remembered today for monumental *Histoire naturelle, générale et particulière*, a 36-volume work in which he considered an astonishing range of subjects, from the behavior of animals to the weather. However, Buffon was also the author of a fascinating text on mathematics – his *Essai d'Arithmetique Morale* (Essay on Moral Arithmetic). In it, Buffon treated a range of topics, including an experimental study of the St. Petersburg game, an early treatment of utility theory, and range of problems in geometric probability. This talk will survey Buffon's work and attempt to put his many ideas in their historical context. (Received September 24, 2018)