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**Karen V. H. Parshall\*** ([khp3k@virginia.edu](mailto:khp3k@virginia.edu)). *Toward Algebra as a General Problem-Solving Technique: Rafael Bombelli to Francois Viète.*

This talk will explore the evolution of algebra in the latter half of the sixteenth century at the hands first of the Italian engineer/architect/mathematician, Rafael Bombelli, and then of the French lawyer/politician/mathematician, François Viète. It will highlight, in particular, the shifting assumptions about what algebra was, about what problems it legitimately addressed and about how it effectively addressed them. (Received September 20, 2011)