

1077-B1-1238 **Meg Dillon*** (mdillon@spsu.edu), Mathematics Department, 1100 S. Marietta Pkwy, Marietta, GA 30060. *Art First: How Artists Discovered the Projective Plane Before Mathematicians Knew It Was There*. Preliminary report.

The history of mathematics in the West features many stories in which mathematics was discovered by mathematicians and found later to be of use outside mathematics. The art world, though, discovered projective geometry before the mathematics community took up serious study and development of the subject. Italian artists started using and teaching perspective techniques for painting starting early in the 14th century. While Pappus's Theorem dates to the fourth century, and is often cited as the earliest theorem of projective geometry, it was not until the first half of the nineteenth century that projective geometry came into its own within mathematics. This talk will trace the curiously inverted relationship between artists and mathematicians in this story. (Received September 18, 2011)