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Michel Pierre Serfati* (`michel.serfati@univ-paris-diderot.fr`). *The transcendence of e in the 1870s. The story of a theorem.*

The first proof of the existence of transcendental numbers was produced by Liouville in 1844. However, it is an ad hoc construction, which gave no information on the usual numbers of Analysis. In 1873, in four *Compte Rendus à l'Académie des Sciences*, Charles Hermite established a remarkable proof of the transcendence of e . In this paper, we analyze the mathematical details, as well as the origin of this theorem. One has not found today still, according to M. Waldschmidt, a method of proof of transcendence which is fundamentally different from Hermite's (Received September 10, 2013)