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Peter Winkler* (peter.winkler@dartmouth.edu), Dept. of Mathematics, Kemeny Hall,
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755-3551. *Stacking Bricks and Stoning Crows.*

How far can a stack of n bricks hang over the edge of a table? It took 5 mathematicians—Mike Paterson, Yuval Peres, Mikkel Thorup, Uri Zwick and the speaker—to finally solve (asymptotically) this 150-year-old problem, and the answer is not what most people thought.

We will present a construction (due to Paterson and Zwick) and a curious result about random walk by an invisible object, upon which the upper bound relies. Finally, we will speculate about the precise best way to stack bricks. (Received September 16, 2008)