

# Visit AMS and TUG office

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## 1 AMS (RI)

I was hosted by Regina Girouard. Of course I met Barbara Beeton as well, had some lunch with them accompanied by Ron Whitney. Regina gave an excellent survey of what AMS is up to, showed me around (really impressive the warehouse, AMS stocks every publication!) and introduced me among others to Ralph Youngen, William Woolf, and Michael Downes.

AMS is located at two places: main division at Rhode Island, and the reviews division at Ann Arbor, Michigan. (I also met Patrick Ion at the conference who works at the Ann Arbor division.) In total roughly 210 people are employed; 160 in Providence and 50 in Ann Arbor.

Headquarters comprise among others the departments: Publication division (acquisitions and translations), Production and Computer Services division (editorial services, composition, printing, technical support, etc.), and Marketing and Distribution division.

AMS organizes meetings, acts as publishing house for math, provides on-line and CD-ROM (math) reviews with MathSci browse facilities, and supplies  $\TeX$  support to the community at large.

AMS runs their complete production (90K pages/year) cost-effectively via  $\TeX$  as formatter. No SGML as such is used, but the SGML spirit can be found in the macro packages. The keyboarding is organized in two steps: first the typing (done mostly by full-timers who work at home), without too much worrying about the correctness of  $\TeX$  (it will be proofread by others) and second the fine-tuning (by more advance typists/programmers). A nice and cost-effective example of the separation of concerns principle.

AMS accepts copy submitted in AMS- $\LaTeX$  or AMS- $\TeX$ . AMS- $\LaTeX$  is  $\LaTeX$  oriented with AMS- $\TeX$  extensions added. (This is different from Spivak's LAMS- $\TeX$ : plain  $\TeX$  compatible extended with AMS- $\TeX$  and  $\LaTeX$  functionality.) It is also possible to submit manuscripts, and the typing etc. taken care of by AMS.

Note that AMS has put their packages into the public domain as well as their fonts. They can be obtained via FTP, email or surface mail. The following FTP session gave me the read.me file

```
ftp e-math.ams.com
Name (e-mat.ams.com:cgl): anonymous
*get /ams/read.me
*exit
```

### 1.1 Further information

Technical Support Department  
American Mathematical Society  
P.O. Box 6248  
Providence RI 02940  
Phone: 800-321-4ams (321-4267)  
or 401-455-4080  
Internet: tech-support@math.ams.com

### 1.2 Recieved documents

- Youngen, R. (1991): *Typesetting with  $\TeX$  at the AMS* (4p.). (A nice survey of why and what for AMS is using  $\TeX$ .)
- *Computers and Mathematics. Notices AMS*, March 1989. (Discusses  $\TeX$ ,  $\LaTeX$  and AMS- $\TeX$ , summarizing also the relative advantages. Since the publication of this note AMS- $\LaTeX$  has been released, and Spivak has provided LAMS- $\TeX$ . Of course these are not dealt with.)
- *A look inside the AMS*. (A nice brochure of what AMS is all about.)
- *Think about publishing with the AMS*. (Another nice brochure about the merits of publishing with AMS: effective marketing, extensive promotion, worldwide distribution, better sales, longer life of book, royalties, support worthwhile noncommercial activities for the benefit of the scientific community at large (for example the TeX project)).
- *Guidelines for preparing electronic manuscripts: AMS- $\TeX$*  (booklet, 52p)  
AMS- $\LaTeX$  (booklet, 58p)  
(Both very well-done. I have not seen of yet guidelines of similar quality! Simply the best available up till now. Much experience to learn from.)
- *AMS- $\LaTeX$  User's Guide*. Version 1.1 (1990).
- *Providence Network*. June 1991. (The ethernet structure with the FTP addresses of all connected machines.)

- Note. I received earlier by snail: AMS- $\TeX$  User Guide and the AMS-fonts publications, as well as the files (old? floppy disks 1.4Mbyte).

## 2 TUG Office

A modest office with a niche for every person. The 'warehouse' is very simple, just a couple of bookcases. For archive material there is hardly place. The disk copier had just arrived, and the floppy-disk niche for PD software distribution was just created. I bought

the  $\TeX$ book, final version in hard cover and some back issues of TUGboat, as well as 'The cats' T-shirt. Ron Whitney (business-manager/technical director) and Karen Butler (membership issues, handling sales) are full-timers. Cliff(ord) Alper is part-timer (handling/organizing courses). Paula Donovan (book-keeping) again a full-timer. Theresa and Charlotte have left the office. I enjoyed talking with Ron about the future of TUG (office) and the role of the various LUGs. My vision is that Russia (CyrTuG) will be the important issue to deal with in the 90-ies, and of course that education is paramount.