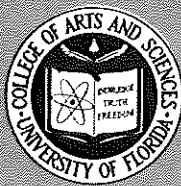


UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
205 Walker Hall

Gainesville, Florida 32601
Telephone (code 904) 392-0281

January 5, 1971

Professor George E. Andrews
Department of Mathematics
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

Dear Dr. Andrews:

Your kind letter of December 8 sent to Strasbourg was forwarded to me and I received it at the same time as your other letter of December 17.

It is indeed a great and valuable task to edit MacMahon's works. I should like to wish you a full success.

The list of all the papers you were able to gather is impressive. I did not realize myself that MacMahon had published so many articles. I am essentially familiar with his book and a few other papers of his. Let me answer your three questions successively.

1. The paper

P. A. MacMahon, The indices of permutations and the derivation there from of a function of a single variable associated with the permutations of any assemblage of objects, Amer. J. Math., 35, (1913), 281-322.

does not appear in your list. It contains a discussion about various indexes on permutations he introduced in his book. You will find in the enclosed reprint an explicit proof of his result. I do not see other papers but suggest that you go through the list of authors in the American Journal of Mathematics.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
205 Walker Hall

Gainesville, Florida 32601
Telephone (code 904) 392-0281

March 24, 1972

Dear Professor Andrews,

Let me thank you very much for your kind invitation. It will be a great pleasure to meet and talk with you.

As for the title of my lecture I propose "Euler numbers and alternating permutations."

I think I will come on April 27 but will call you up to ask you if I can arrive at 11:01 a.m. that day and have enough time before the colloquium. Then I could leave Friday night or Saturday morning.

Thank you again

Sincerely yours,

Dominique Foata



