



McGill
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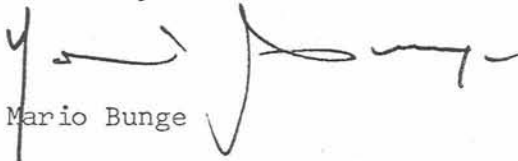
Dear Truesdell

Thank you for your latest batch of reprints and preprints. I enjoyed very much reading your brilliant paper on the role of math. in science-- in spite of your digs against quantum mechanics and the (well confirmed) hypothesis of the potential equality of all human races. I liked in particular your evaluation of the computer cult, which is indeed corrupting culture and driving mathematicians and theorists away.

I also enjoyed reading your distant cousin's genealogical notes on Lagrange, but was troubled to find your own genealogy wrong on a couple of important points. The true story of your name and your relation to me is this.

Truesdell is a late corruption of Truetell, or perhaps Treutell. This was the nickname given to your ancestor by mine, Sir Roger de Bungler (or Bungler). Truetell (or Treutell) was not a minstrel and jester: he was the astrologer and physician to Sir Roger, who encouraged him to poke fun at the monks of the nearby monastery. The latter's abbot, by the way, and not my ancestor, was called "the great depucellator", though according to a certain chronicle Sir Roger and Truetell did not do any worse in this business. When Sir Roger died in the siege of Jerusalem he left all his estate to Truetell, who assembled a distinguished circle of scholars and artists. And, I am sorry to say, Truetell squandered the last years of his life, as well as his fortune, trying to assemble a huge calculating machine powered by an army of trained mice. But before this he built the largest collection of book manuscripts in Norman England, and instituted a number of scholarships and fellowships for the study of Numerology (sorry again) and other heresies. There is also a story, which I was unable to confirm, that he married Sir Roger's youngest daughter, who gave him several children. In any case it has been established that, upon inheriting Sir Roger's estate, he took the title of Sir Clifford de Truetell (or Treutell).

Cordially



Mario Bunge

