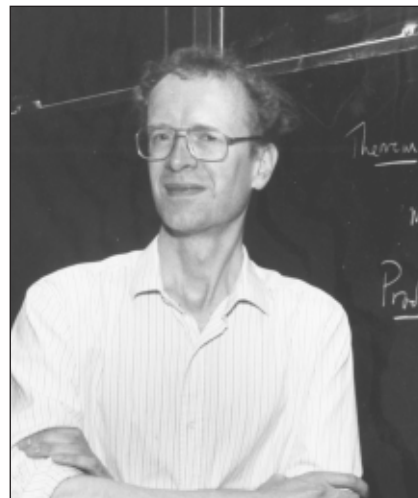


# Wiles Receives 2005 Shaw Prize



**Andrew J. Wiles**

On June 3, 2005, the Shaw Prize Foundation announced that ANDREW J. WILES of Princeton University will receive the Shaw Prize in the Mathematical Sciences for 2005 for his proof of Fermat's Last Theorem. The prize bears a monetary award of US\$1 million. This is the second year that the Shaw Prize has been awarded.

## Citation

The equation  $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$  has infinitely many solutions for which  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$  are positive integers. The smallest such solution is  $3^2 + 4^2 = 5^2$ , which has been known since antiquity. In 1630 Fermat (1601-1665) conjectured that the more general equation  $x^n + y^n = z^n$ , for  $n =$  an integer  $> 2$ , has no integer solutions. This was later called Fermat's Last Theorem. It remained the most famous unproven conjecture in mathematics for more than three centuries until 1994, when Wiles completed his long and difficult proof, which uses powerful mathematical ideas and insights developed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## Biographical Note

Andrew Wiles (born 1953) is a professor at Princeton University. He earned his B.A. from Oxford University (1974) and Ph.D. from Cambridge University, United Kingdom (1979). Following in the footsteps of his father, Wiles went on to become an assistant professor at Harvard University. In 1982 he became a professor of mathematics at Princeton. In 1994 Wiles was appointed Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics at Princeton.

Among the prizes and awards Wiles has received are the King Faisal Prize (1998), the Wolfskehl Prize (1997), a MacArthur Fellowship (1997), the Wolf Prize (1996), the Royal Medal of the Royal Society, London (1996), the Ostrowski Prize (1996), the NAS Award in Mathematics of the U.S. National

Academy of Sciences (1996), the Schock Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (1995), and the Prix Fermat (1995). Wiles was elected a fellow of the Royal Society, London (1989), and a foreign member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences (1996). At the International Congress of Mathematicians in Berlin in 1998, Wiles received a one-time special tribute from the International Mathematical Union, the IMU Silver Plaque.

## About the Shaw Prize

Established under the auspices of Run Run Shaw, the Shaw Prize honors individuals, regardless of race, nationality, and religious belief, who have achieved significant breakthroughs in academic and scientific research or application and whose work has resulted in a positive and profound impact on mankind. Shaw Prizes are presented annually in astronomy, life sciences and medicine, and mathematical sciences.

The Shaw Prize is an international award managed and administered by the Shaw Prize Foundation, based in Hong Kong. Run Run Shaw has also founded the Sir Run Run Shaw Charitable Trust and the Shaw Foundation Hong Kong, both dedicated to the promotion of education, scientific and technological research, medical and welfare services, and culture and the arts.

The first awardee of the Shaw Prize in Mathematical Sciences was the late S.-S. Chern, who received the prize in 2004.

—Allyn Jackson