

Caesar

Caesar started out as a brilliant French high school student, equally at ease in literature and sciences.

Later on, he became fascinated in some unusual geometrical objects invented in the early 20th century by mathematicians (also studied by great physicists).

Caesar's claim to fame is to have understood their importance in our everyday life. Nature provides us with many examples of such objects, from the infinitesimally small to the infinitely large.

Caesar's books made it a lot easier for us to understand them. Not to be trifled with in today's culture, Caesar came up with a clever name to describe these objects -- a name that stuck and has been adopted all over the world. Caesar has clearly enriched science, even though some physicists downplay his personal contribution.

But success also has a down side: Caesar has become uncompromising and difficult. He believes he is the keeper of the Tablets of the Law. Whenever an article in his field fails to cite him prominently, he criticizes it viciously. Embittered prophets are as common in modern science as they were in the Old Testament.

Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Nobel prize in Physics 1991.

Petit Point: A candid portrait on the Aberrations of Science, World Scientific, Singapore 2004. (Caesar, pag.43). ISBN 981-256-011-4, 72pp.