

# The Lucasian Chair of Mathematics at Cambridge University



An important *Professorship of Mathematick* was deeded in December 1663 at Cambridge University, England, as a result of a gift from Henry Lucas, M.P. for the university. The Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics is the most famous academic chair in the world. This is due in no small part to the former holder of the chair, Professor Stephen Hawking, well known theoretical physicist, and Sir Isaac Newton, second holder of the chair. What is not so commonly known is that the chair has been held by others who represent the best and most influential minds in science and technology the world has known, as well as few not so important men. As a group, the eighttteen men who have held the chair have made a unique contribution to the world. The Era of Modern Science has its beginnings here. The three hundred forty years that have passed since its founding have seen a dramatic evolution of science.