

## Après 1713: Bernoulli, Montmort et Waldegrave

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The fifth section of the second edition of Pierre Rémond de Montmort's *Essay d'analyse sur les jeux de hazard* published in 1713 contains correspondence on probability problems between Montmort and Nicolaus Bernoulli. The correspondence began in 1710. The last published letter, dated November 15, 1713, is from Montmort to Nicolaus Bernoulli. There is some discussion of the strategy of play in the card game Le Her and a bit of news that Montmort's friend Waldegrave in Paris was going to take care of the printing of the book. From earlier correspondence between Bernoulli and Montmort, it is apparent that Waldegrave had also analyzed Le Her and had come up with a randomized strategy as a solution. He had also suggested working on the problem of the pool, or what is often called Waldegrave's problem. The Universitätsbibliothek Basel contains an additional forty-two letters between Bernoulli and Montmort written after 1713, as well as two letters between Bernoulli and Waldegrave. The letters are all in French. The trio continued to discuss probability problems and results including Le Her which was still under discussion when the *Essay d'analyse* went to print. Bernoulli also mentioned what is now known as the St. Petersburg paradox. I will describe the probability content of this body of correspondence and put it in its historical context. I will also provide a proper identification of Waldegrave based on manuscripts in the Archives nationales de France in Paris.

Key words: history of probability, history of game theory