

1067-01-2027 **Daniel S. Alexander*** (daniel.alexander@drake.edu), Dept. Mathematics and Computer Science, 2505 University Avenue, Des Moines, IA. *Salvatore Pincherle and the 1918 Grand Prix des sciences mathématiques: The Third Man*. Preliminary report.

We often focus on winners or tragic losers. Such is the case with the 1918 *Grand Prix des sciences mathématiques*. It is well-known that Gaston Julia won the competition. Many know that Pierre Fatou did not – but that was because he did not enter. Samuel Lattès also entered, but died before the prize was announced and was awarded a posthumous honorable mention. Much less is known about the work of the third entrant, the Italian mathematician Salvatore Pincherle. His entry was returned to him and did not receive consideration for the prize. Nor was it ever published. Nevertheless, there is much to learn from those who do not win. Not only do they throw the work of those who win into relief, they give us a glimpse into paths not taken. It is from this perspective that we will examine Pincherle’s entry, which we obtained from the Académie’s archives. We will describe its mathematical content (one of the highlights is an anticipation of the Mandelbrot set), but we will also discuss what this particular entry tells us about the mathematics that earned the prize. (Received September 22, 2010)