# THE MAGIC SQUARES of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



THE FIEST OF A SERIES OF FOUR PAPERS DESCRIBING THE TECHNIQUE OF LEONHARD EULER APPLIED TO THE LAHIREIAN METHOD OF FORMING MAGIC SQUARES OF ALL SIZES UNDER THE GENERAL TITLE

### THE INTRINSIC HARMONY OF NUMBER

bу

CLARENCE C. MARDER

ALSO THE SIMPLE METHOD OF RAISING ANY 8 x 8 SQUARE TO THE 16 x 16 SIZE WITH THE AID OF AN AUXILIARY SQUARE PRESERVING ALL THE QUALITIES OF THE ORIGINAL

Three entirely new methods of producing
The Bent Diagonals of Benjamin Franklin

DEDMOND BYRNE HACKETT →

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### MAGIC SQUARES AND OTHER PROBLEMS ON A CHESSBOARD

by Major P. A. MacMahon, R.A., D.S., F.R.S.

"The construction of magic squares is an amusement of great antiquity; we hear of their being constructed in India and China before the Christian era, while they appear to have been introduced into Europe by Moscopulus who flourished at Constantinople early in the fifteenth century.

"However, what was at first merely a practice of magicians and talisman makers has now for a long time become a serious study for mathematicians. Not that they have imagined that it would lead them to anything of solid advantage, but because the theory was seen to be fraught with difficulty, and it was considered possible that some new properties of numbers might be discovered which mathematicians could have to account. This has in fact proved to be the case, for from a certain point of view to addict has been found to be algebraical rather than arithmetical and to be intimately connected with great departments of science such as the 'infinite simal calculus,' the 'calculus of operations' and the 'theory of groups.'

"No person living knows in how many ways it is possible to form a magic square of any order exceeding  $4 \times 1$ . The fact is that before we can attempt to enumerate magic squares we must see our way to solve problems of a more simple character.

"To say and to establish that problems of the general nature of the magic square are invinctely connected with the infinites mal calculus and the calculus of finite differences is to sum the matter up."

An excerpt from a paper published in Proceedings of the Royal Institution of Great Britain. Vol. XVII, No. 96, pp. 50-61, Feb. 4, 1892.

A maggic square consists of a collect of ambers as arranged in a square, that the sum of each row and column and of both corner diagonals shall be the same amount, which may be termed the summation and is usually indicated by S. Those of the eighth order - the 8 x 8 size - may have other "properties" as Franklin termed them, especially his "bent-diagonals."

A famous French mathematician, Gabriel Phillippe de La Hire (1677-1719) originated the method of using two "primary squares" to form the magic square. A "root square" is substituted for one of them and then the two are added together, forming the magic square, commissing the numbers 1 to 04 is squares of the eighth design.

Euler (1706-1790) used the Labirelan sethod but (in effect) made the use of the root square unnecessary by placing both primary squares in one cell block, thus forming a magic square with 11 for unity instead of one.

The "magic" is, naturally, in the primary square. The harmonious distribution of eight sets of the digits 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 in an 8 x 8 square creates the instruments with which the various forms are constructed. The position of the complementary pairs 1-8 2-7 3-6 4-5 determine the form of "association." Usually the primary is turned one-quarter around to form the second one - primary B - and then the two entered in the same cell block form the Euler-LaHireian square and the complementary pairs are then 11-88 12-87 13-86 and so on to the center pairs 48-51.

Six of these forms of "association" are shown in the Euler-LaHireian squares (829) to (834) and two others - the knight (only) in (814) and the associated (815).

We will proceed with a description of the various forms of the magic rectangle, this being the method used by La Hire to build his primary square, and then on to two other methods of forming the primary square, which, as far as we know, have never appeared in print.

### THE FRANKLIN-KNIGHT-NASIK MAGIC PECTANGLES

Gabriel Fhillippe de La Hire (1677-1719) was in his sixteenth year when the following came from the pen of La Loubere:- "In these Indian squares it is necessary not merely that the summation of the rows, columns and diagonals should be alike, but that the sum of any eight numbers in one direction as in the moves of a bishop or a knight should also be alike." This "continuous" or "pandiagonal" quality in an 8 x 8 square is generally referred to as Knight-Nasik.1

Early in the eighteenth century de La Hire found he could construct these "Indian" squares with one primary square formed with four identical 2 x 8 magic rectangles, the numbers being used in their natural order - 1234 - followed by their complements - 8765 - the second line containing the complements of the first line. The primary square was formed with four of the rectangle (800) and turned one-quarters to to to go ght or left to form the decond one.

Half a century later, Franklin, using the more difficult "direct method" formed an 8 x 8 square with his now famous "bent-diagonals."

Had he used the method of La Hire and simply transposed the digits 3 and 4 he could have Formed a magic square with the "Indian" quality and his bent-diagonals as well.

There are only three groups of numbers which can be used for this purpose -1-2-4-3 \* 1-2-6-5 \* 1-3-7-5 and within each group the "pairing" is alternate as indicated in H (805). Thus they form twelve divers: 2 x 4 magic rectangles (835) which can be reflected, inverted and this inversion reflected, making 48 in all.

The complete table of 2 x 8 magic rectangles should be studied thoroughly.

<sup>1.</sup> NASIK. The tewn of Nasik near Bombay, India, was the home of the Rev. A. H. Frost who contributed a mass of material relating to magic squares and cubes to the South Kensington Museum in London, and his name for the "pandiagonal" or "continuous" quality in any magic square has been generally accepted.

#### THE TABLE OF 2 x 8 MAGIC RECTANGLES

Here are shown the twelve entirely diverse 2 x 8 Franklin-Knight-Nasik magic rectangles. Each one has been formed with a 2 x 4 rectangle, inverted to form the second half. Each one can be reflected, inverted, turned one-half around, (the reflection inverted) or 48 in all.

Each one can be changed into a Franklin-JAINA rectangle by transposing the second and third 2 x 2 sections. The three numbers 11 - 31 - 51 have been so treated and are shown as 011 - 015 in group 1584, 031 - 035 in group 1386 and 051-055 in group 1387. The other nine - numbers 15 to 65 - can be transposed in the same manner.

Likewise the Knight-Nasik groups numbers 111 to 165 can be transformed into the Franklin-Jaina forms 021-0.5 041-045 061-065, also being kept in the three groups numbers 1584 - 1386 - .287 as otherwise there would be a duplication of digits. Thus there are three distinct groups of the Franklin-Jaina forms, each containing eight 2 x 8 rectangles, either 2 x 4 half of which can be reflected, etc., without reference to the other half. The primary squares formed from these groups can be used together.

Note the construct a of this Frank) n-JAINA form. Each 2 x 4 is made with a 2 x 2 inverted to form the second half. The construction of the thirteenth century JAINA square is shown in (806).

The Knight-Nasik rectangles numbers all to 165 can be made into the "associated" form by reflecting the left 2 x 4 section (instead of inverting it). Three examples are shown - (1 - 8) - 91. This transformation is shown in the two Suler-sahireian regionsqueres (81) - (815).

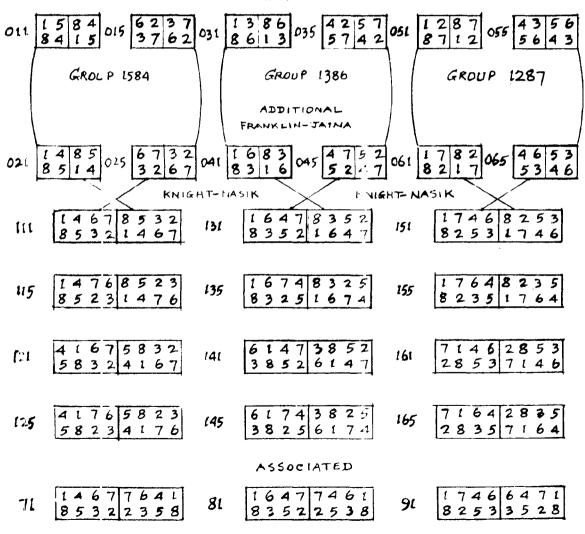
i. JAIN: In 1904, Indeed or Chilling entributed to the Malaematical Society of Göttingen the fact that Professor Kielhorn had found a JAINA inscription of the twelfth or thirteenth century in the city of KHAJURAHO, India. This consisted of a 4 x 4 magic square with the particular qualities shown in (806).

### FRANKLIN-KNIGHT- NASIK

11	156284378437	31	13428657865786571342	51	124387568756
15	15738426 84261573	35	13758624	55	1265873487341265
21	5 1 2 5 4 8 7 3 4 8 7 3 5 1 2 6	41	3 1 2 4 6 8 7 5 6 8 7 5 3 1 2 4	61	2134786578652134
25	5 1 3 7 4 8 6 2 4 8 6 2 5 1 3 7	45	3 1 5 7 6 8 4 2 6 8 4 2 3 1 5 7	65	21567843 78432156

ALLOWANCE IS MADE FOR NUMBERS OF OTHER 3 FORMS

### FRANKLIN-JAINA



### QUA STIES OF THE MAG TRECT/RGLE

•

 $\label{eq:condition} \mathbf{y} = \{ \mathbf{c} \mid \mathbf{r} \in \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{r} \in \mathbf{f} \} \ \ \, \text{which the right} \\ \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{R}^n \ \text{wht}^n \in \mathbb{R}^n \ \text{which thy}.$ 

Jaina and a confidence of the process of the confidence of the process of the confidence of the confid

the Transfer cost in each 8 magic rectanges in shown in (\*\*01). The addingtone the state of the following the two loser primary squares in (807) the ery contraction of the primary

It the an up (B) are seen with the correct totals of (B); the mean paid in the lem are red mineral. 1243 + 1265 - 1375. See (80%) where the Frank in term overs the distance 4 making the botal for the eight numbers 40 instead of 36 the correct total in ( $^{2}$ C1).

All of these forms can be used together - one for primary A and the other - turned right or left (or reflected and turned) for the second or primary B. For example: the combination of the primary squares made with the rectangles (802) and (803) forms a magic square, but not having these qualities in common both the knight and Franklin qualities are lost. See the example (808).

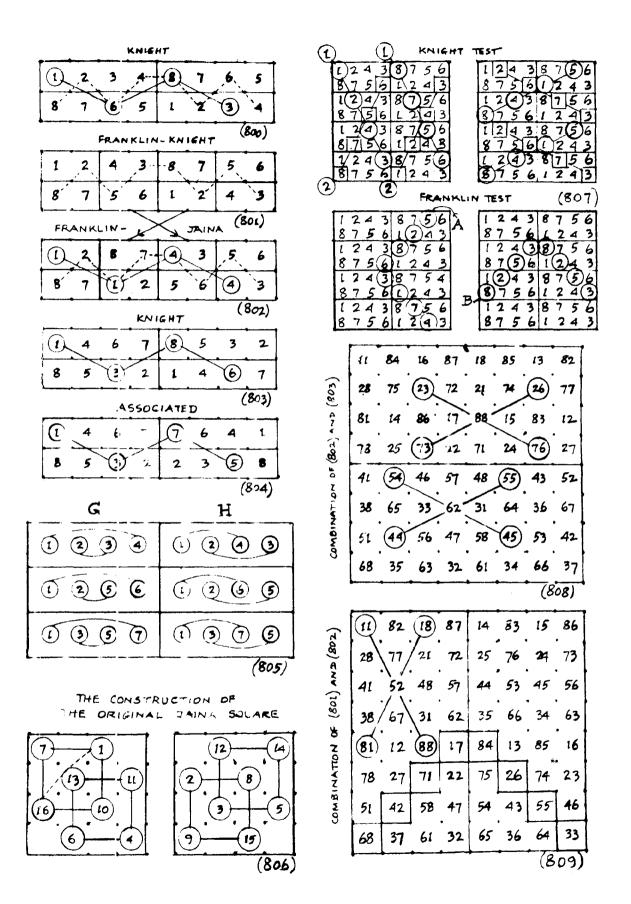
In the combination of the primary squares made with the rectangles (801) and (802) one quality - the bent diagonal - is retained but the knight quality is lost. Note the bent diagonal in the example (809).

The construction of the thirteenth century JAINA square is shown in (806). The squares made with the Franklin-Jaina rectangles retain the complementary pairs each of a subsquare. Refer to the magic square (811) and note that the pairs and once in the uncomposite of the first of the composite of the square of th

In both of these square (80%) and (80%) the maining is a composite of the Joina and knight pairing. the complementary pairs will be found in the diagonally opposite corners of eight 3 x 5 rectangles in each horizontal or vertical half, depending on which primary is used for the primary A.

A magic square is called "associated" when the two numbers making up the complementary pairs are dispetrically equidistant from the center. In the squares of the odd orders, 5 x 5 - x 7 - 9 x 9 this association of complementary pairs necessary to obtain the lighest forms. In the 8 x 8 size however, it bars the light and Frankling little and herefore as no parallular interest.

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500	** t <sub>1</sub>	b;		•	137					
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# THE FRANKLIN-KNIGHT-NASIK EULER-LAHIREIAN MAGIC SQUARES

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The magic squares numbers (810) (812) (813) are so constructed that any eight numbers in one direction as in the moves of a bishop or a knight are alike. The move of the bishop, starting anywhere, is what the Rev. A. H. Frost termed NASIK. Franklin broke this movement in the middle, and termed it a "bent-diagonal" and writers frequently simply call a square "Franklin," meaning it has this quality.

The move of the knight is shown in (814). The complementary pairs are in diagonally opposite subsquares and by turning subsquares two and four one-half around the position of the pairs is changed to what - in the odd orders - we term associated. "Diagetrically equidistant from the center." See (815).

All of these squares have the maximum number of "centers of equilibrium" - 49 -. In all of them there are 207 squares and rectangles of even dimensions the four corner numbers of which bear a sum one-half that of rows or columns.

In (810) the rectangle No. 11 was used to form the primary B and then turned left (TL) to form the primary A. The same with (811) using the Franklin rectangle Oll-Ol5. The square (812) used the rectangle No. 15 for the B primary and No. 16 for the A primary, the latter being turned RIGHT. Two rectangles were also used for (813) one of them - No.51-being turned left for the A primary.

These four are all "Franklin" and contain 20 of the bent-diagonals "A" and 24 each of the "B" and "C". Many will contain the knight pattern "G" - for example - (813) even if they are not "knight."

Especially to be noted is the formation of the rectangles Nos. 111 to 165. The four digits - 1467 - and their complements - 8532 - comprising the upper and lower half of each 2 x 4 rectangle, hear the magic sum of 18 and therefore the rows and columns of each 4 x 4 subsquare in a magic square will be 'magic," but not the diagonals.

NR II	(TL)	AND)	10 11						J	Nº 0	11-015	(TL)	AND	Nº 0	16-01	5	•
71	25	76	22	78	24	73	27			71.	25	78	24	76	22	73	27
38	64	33	67	31	65	36	62			38	64	3L	65	33	67	36	62
41	55	46	52	48	54	43	57			21	75	28	74	26	72	23	77
88	14	83	17	81	15	86	12			68	34	61	35	63	37	66	32
21	75	26	72	28	74	23	77			41	55	48	54	46	52	43	57
68	34	63	37	61	35	66	32			88	14	81	15	83	17	86	12
51	45	56	42	58	44	<i>5</i> 3	47			<i>5</i> 1	45	58	44	56	42	53	47
18	84	13	87	11	85	16	82			18	84	11	85	13	87	16	82
N2 [	6 (TR	)AND	NS I	5		(8)	(0)	•	į	N2 5	1 (TL	) AND	WB.	28		(8)	1)
11	85	17	83)	(18)	84	12	86			6	<b>3</b> 3	61	35	62	36	68	34
8	44	52	46	51	45)	• 57	43)	-C	ড	52	46	58	4	9	43	<b>5</b> l/	45
71	25)	77	23)	78	24	72	26		A N	77	23)	71/	25	72	26	78	24
38	64	32	66	31	6	37	63		T T Y	82	16	(88)	14	87	(13)	g <sub>L</sub>	15
81	15	87	13	88	[4	82	16		F	37	63/	(31)	65	32	6	38	64
]48)	54	42	56	4[	(55)	47	(53)	A	Z Z	42	56)	48	54	47	53	(AL)	55
21	B	27	3	28	74	22	76			27/	73	21	75)	23	76	28	74
(88)	34	62	36	61	35	67	(33)	B		12	86	18	84	17	83	[1	85
Vis I	51 (T	L) A.	1D NS	LLI	•	(8)	2)			NB S	)1 (TL	-) AN	D 143	71	<u> </u>	(8	13)
31	64	36	(67)	38	65	33	62			31	64	36	67	17	.86	[4	. 81
58	45	53/	/42	51	44	56	47	A 7 5 5	MAKE SQUARE	58	45	53	42	72	23	. 75	28
21	74	(26)	77	28	75	<u></u>	72	Sau		21	74	26	רר	47	56	44	51
88	15	/8:	12	81	14	86	17	l 'Š∵	-	88	15	83	12	62	33	65	38
.61	34	. 66	37	68	39	63	32	4 4	SSOCIA	61	34	66	37	87	16	84	11
48	) 55	43	52	41/	54	46	57			48	55	43	52	22	73	25	78
10	. 24	76	27	78	25	73	22	A GMC		71	24	76	27	57	46	54	41
18	85	13	82	11	84	[6	87	JORN C	2 -	18	85	13	82	32	63	35	68
						(8	14)	-					•	-	•	(8	15)

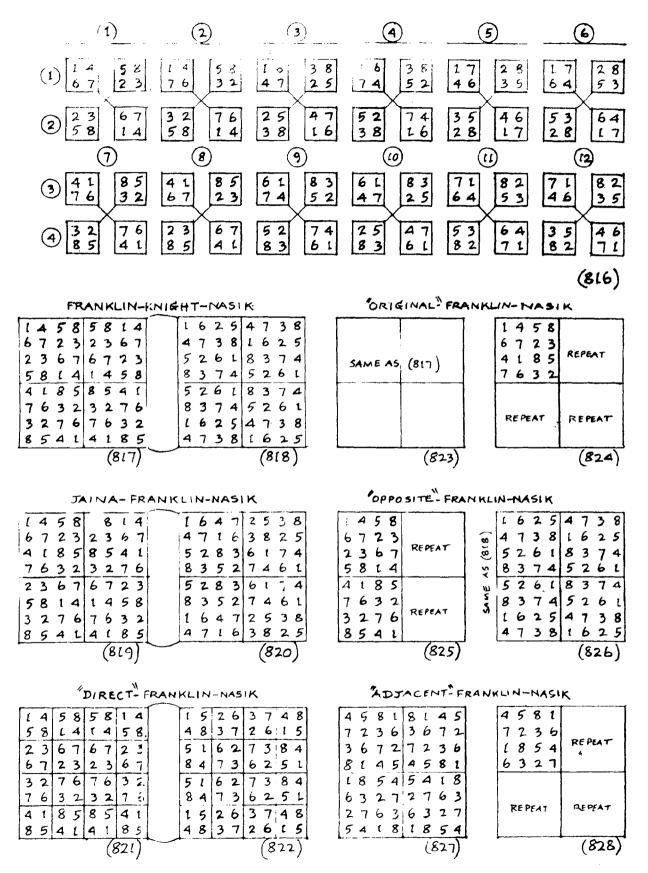
# THE 2 x 2 UNIT - 1467 - METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING MAGIC SQUARES WITH THE FRANKLIN BENT DIAGONALS

This method has many advantages over the one using magic rectangles. It has been possible to explore six different methods of placing the complementary pairs 11-88 12-87 15-86, etc., including the one used by Franklin which we have termed "original" and which cannot be accomplished with a single magic rectangle.

A great variety is possible as the start can be made with any one of the 48 units in (816) as long as this order is followed: inversion, reflection, reflection inverted entered zig-zag as indicated with the complements opposite.

Each 4 x 8 solumn forms the left half of a Franklin-knight-Nasik primary square the two 2 x 3 columns being transposed to form the right half (817). It has been reflected and turned one-quarter to the left, (turned on its down-right diagonal) to form the primary B square (818).

The Franklin-Jaina form is made by transposing the second and third 2 x 4 sections of (1) (7) to form the left half of the primary A and then transposing the two 2 x 8 columns to form the right half. These two primary squares (819) and (820) have the same construction as the thirteenth century JAINA in (806). The complementary pairs 1-8 2-7 3-6 4-5 are in the diagonally opposite corners of each 3 x 3 square within each 4 x 4 subsquare.



To form the primary A for the "Direct" Franklin (821) the rows of (817) are rearranged in the order 1-4-3-2-7-6-5-8 which brings the complementary pairs together in each 2 x 2 section. This one also was turned on its down-right diagonal to form the primary B square (822).

The position of the complementary pairs in the 8 x 8 square which Franklin produced to illustrate his bent diagonals, is described as "adjacent and constructively adjacent" in each vertical half of the square. We have used the primary A of the Franklin-knight-Nasik (817) and one of the 4 x 4 subsquares of (819) - used four times for the primary B (823) (824).

In the Euler-Lahireian magic squares (829) and (833) the left halves are identical. The second and fourth subsquares of (829) are transposed and then reflected forming the square (833). It was necessary to form this square with "opposite" pairing in order to duplicate the style of pairing used by Franklin in his 16 x 16 square. In our example (856-A) as will be seen by examining the 8 x 8 Euler-Lahireian magic square (856-C) a different set of primary squares than (825) and (826) were necessary in order to bring the numbers 11-88 at the center bottom of the square.

In the "Adjacent" form, the primary A (817) is changed by placing the first column after the fourth and the fifth column after the eighth to form the primary A (827). The same proceeding with (824) to produce (828).

In forming these examples we have used only the first column (1) (7) in order to make certain comparisons. In (832-C) and (832-E) we have two primary squares quite different from the (823) and (824) both sets being used to produce the "original" Franklin.

	FOLA	NKI	-IN-	KN	EHT
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11	46	52	85	54	87	13	48
64	77	23	38	21	36	62	75
25	32	66	71	68	73	27	34
58	83	17	44	15	42	56	81
45	12	86	51	88	53	47	14
78	63	37	24	35	22	76	61
31	26	72	65	74	67	<i>3</i> 3	28
84	57	43	18	41	16	82	55
JAIN	VA- F	RAN	KLIN	ı		(82	(9)

### JAINA- FRANKLIN

			· ·				
11.1	46	54	87	52	85	13	48
64	77	21	36	23	38	62	75
45	12	88	<i>5</i> 3	86	51	47	14
78	63	35	22	37	24	76	61
25	32	68	73	66	71	27	34
<i>5</i> 8	83	15	42	17	44	56	81
31	26	74	67	72	65	33	28
84	57	41	16	43	18	82	55
″DIR	ECT'	FR.	NKL	N.		(8	30)

## "DIRECT" FRINKLIN

_	12							
	11	45	52	86	<i>5</i> 3	87	14	48
	54	88	13	47	12	46	51	85
	25	31	66	72	67	73	28	34
	68	74	27	33	26	32	65	71
	35	21	76	62	77	63	38	24
	78	64	37	23	36	22	75	61
	41	15	82	56	83	57	44	18
	84	58	43	17	42	16	81	55
							(8	31)

### FORIGINAL" FRANKLIN

11	44	55	88	57	84	15	48
66	77	22	33	26	37	62	73
24	31	68	75	64	71	28	35
57	86	13	42	17	46	<i>5</i> 3	82
41	14	85	58	81	54	45	[8
76	67	32	23	36	27	72	63
34	21	78	65	74	61	38	25
87	56	43	12	47	16	83	52
4						(8)	12)

"OPPOSITE" F	RANKLIN
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11	46	52	85	14	47	53	88
64	77	23	38	61	76	22	35
25	32	66	71	28	33	67	74
<i>5</i> 8	83	ί7	44	55	82	16	4Ĺ
45	12	86	51	48	13	87	54
78	63	37	24	75	62	36	21
31	26	72	65	34	27	73	68
84	57	43	18	81	56	42	15
ADJ	ACEN	T FR	ANKL	.IN		(8:	33)

### ADJACENT FRANKLIN

44	55	88	ננ	84	15	48	5L
77	22	33	66	37	62	73	26
31	68	75	24	71	28	3 <i>5</i>	64
86	13	42	57	46	53	82	17
14	85	58	41	54	45	18	81
67	32	23	76	27	72	63	36
21	78	65	34	61	38	25	74
56	43	12	87	16	83	52	47
				•		(8:	4)

### POSITION EQUIVALENTS

The series of Lahireian numbers used by Leonhard Euler naturally runs from 11 to 99 and in squares of the eighth order it is only necessary to eliminate the ninth row and the ninth column, leaving the numbers 11 to 88 shown in figure (860). The position of each number is carried in the number itself - the first digit indicating the ROW and the second digit indicating the COLUMN.

Therefore any Euler-Lahireian magic square can be used as a KEY square in order to locate the proper substitute, in any series of numbers - not necessarily consecutive - for the Euler-Lahireian number.

For example: the second number in the KEY square (832-A) is 76 or row 7 and column 6 and the number in this position in the series of consecutive numbers (832-G) is 54 which is then entered in the square (832-B) which at the start is an EMPTY cell block. The next Euler-Lahireian number is 23 or row 2 and column 3 and its position equivalent in the series above is 11. This substitution is continued until the cell block is full and the magic square completed.

The original method of de La Hire is illustrated in (832-C) (832-D) (832-E) and can be used any time the student desires to have the magic square appear in consecutive numbers 1 to 64.

There is continuity - of a sort - in the entry of the first 32 numbers in this magic square with the original Franklin pairings (832-B) but doubtless some enthusiastic experimenter will find a better formula and - let us hope - the rule or rules governing the method of direct entry, which, unfortunately, was not disclosed by the many sided Benjamin Franklin.

