William Shanks Encyclopedia Article

William Shanks

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William Shanks

1812-1882

English mathematician who calculated extraordinarily precise values of π, *e,* and Euler's constant, *g.* Shanks's calculations of π, carried out manually to 707 decimal places, were unfortunately found to be correct for only the first 527 decimal places. Similarly, a minor mistake in his calculations of *e* resulted in verification of only the first 528 places. Shanks also published a table of primes up to the number 60,000 and calculated the natural logarithms of several numbers to more than 130 decimal places.