1092-01-40   **Daniel J. Curtin*** (`curtin@nku.edu`), Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Northern Kentucky University, Highland Heights, KY 41099. *Jan De Witt (1625–72) and the Beginnings of Modern Analytic Geometry.*

Jan De Witt's two-volume *Elementa curvarum linearum* (Elements of Curves) appeared as part of Frans van Schooten's famous Latin edition of Descartes' *Geometrie.* The second volume was the first systematic treatment of lines and conic sections to start with first- and second-degree equations and then derive the known curve represented by each equation. This was a major step in moving towards the modern approach of starting with equations. Previously the usual starting point had been a geometric or mechanical definition of the curve, as in Descartes. De Witt's examples are accessible to students with a pre-calculus background, being similar to what they already know. However, students will be challenged to think a bit more deeply about their knowledge of these basic curves. (Received July 13, 2013)