Hasse on Hilbert
‘When I explained the foundations of class field theory, he got very enthusiastic and said, “But, that is extremely beautiful, who has created it?”’, and I had to tell him that it was he himself who had laid the foundation and envisaged that beautiful theory’

Difficult fer-mi
When Enrico Fermi grew bored with his mathematics classes, a professor gave him a set of nine special problems. Some time later, the professor asked his student how he was progressing. “Oh, they are very hard,” he replied. “I have only managed to solve six of them.” The professor was stunned. “But those,” he cried, “are unsolved problems!”