

# Contents

Foreword by Isaac Asimov, xi  
Preface to the Third Edition, xiii  
Preface to the Second Edition, xv  
Preface to the First Edition, xvii

<b>1</b>	<b>Traces</b>	<b>1</b>
	Concepts and Relationships, 1 Early Number Bases, 3 Number Language and Counting, 5 Spatial Relationships, 6	
<b>2</b>	<b>Ancient Egypt</b>	<b>8</b>
	The Era and the Sources, 8 Numbers and Fractions, 10 Arithmetic Operations, 12 “Heap” Problems, 13 Geometric Problems, 14 Slope Problems, 18 Arithmetic Pragmatism, 19	
<b>3</b>	<b>Mesopotamia</b>	<b>21</b>
	The Era and the Sources, 21 Cuneiform Writing, 22 Numbers and Fractions: Sexagesimals, 23 Positional Numeration, 23 Sexagesimal Fractions, 25 Approximations, 25 Tables, 26 Equations, 28 Measurements: Pythagorean Triads, 31 Polygonal Areas, 35 Geometry as Applied Arithmetic, 36	
<b>4</b>	<b>Hellenic Traditions</b>	<b>40</b>
	The Era and the Sources, 40 Thales and Pythagoras, 42 Numeration, 52 Arithmetic and Logistic, 55	

	Fifth-Century Athens, 56	Three Classical Problems, 57	
	Quadrature of Lunes, 58	Hippias of Elis, 61	Philolaus and Archytas of Tarentum, 63
	Incommensurability, 65	Paradoxes of Zeno, 67	Deductive Reasoning, 70
	Democritus of Abdera, 72	Mathematics and the Liberal Arts, 74	The Academy, 74
	Aristotle, 88		
<b>5</b>	<b>Euclid of Alexandria</b>		<b>90</b>
	Alexandria, 90	Lost Works, 91	Extant Works, 91
	The <i>Elements</i> , 93		
<b>6</b>	<b>Archimedes of Syracuse</b>		<b>109</b>
	The Siege of Syracuse, 109	<i>On the Equilibriums of Planes</i> , 110	
	<i>On Floating Bodies</i> , 111	The <i>Sand-Reckoner</i> , 112	
	<i>Measurement of the Circle</i> , 113	<i>On Spirals</i> , 113	
	<i>Quadrature of the Parabola</i> , 115	<i>On Conoids and Spheroids</i> , 116	
	<i>On the Sphere and Cylinder</i> , 118	<i>Book of Lemmas</i> , 120	
	Semiregular Solids and Trigonometry, 121	<i>The Method</i> , 122	
<b>7</b>	<b>Apollonius of Perge</b>		<b>127</b>
	Works and Tradition, 127	Lost Works, 128	Cycles and Epicycles, 129
	The <i>Conics</i> , 130		
<b>8</b>	<b>Crosscurrents</b>		<b>142</b>
	Changing Trends, 142	Eratosthenes, 143	Angles and Chords, 144
	Ptolemy's <i>Almagest</i> , 149	Heron of Alexandria, 156	The Decline of Greek Mathematics, 159
	Nicomachus of Gerasa, 159	Diophantus of Alexandria, 160	Pappus of Alexandria, 164
	The End of Alexandrian Dominance, 170	Proclus of Alexandria, 171	Boethius, 171
	Athenian Fragments, 172	Byzantine Mathematicians, 173	
<b>9</b>	<b>Ancient and Medieval China</b>		<b>175</b>
	The Oldest Known Texts, 175	The <i>Nine Chapters</i> , 176	
	Rod Numerals, 177	The Abacus and Decimal Fractions, 178	
	Values of Pi, 180	Thirteenth-Century Mathematics, 182	
<b>10</b>	<b>Ancient and Medieval India</b>		<b>186</b>
	Early Mathematics in India, 186	The <i>Sulbasutras</i> , 187	
	The <i>Siddhantas</i> , 188	Aryabhata, 189	Numerals, 191
	Trigonometry, 193	Multiplication, 194	Long Division, 195
	Brahmagupta, 197	Indeterminate Equations, 199	Bhaskara, 200
	Madhava and the Kerala School, 202		

<b>11 The Islamic Hegemony</b>	<b>203</b>
Arabic Conquests, 203 The House of Wisdom, 205 Al-Khwarizmi, 206 ‘Abd Al-Hamid ibn-Turk, 212 Thabit ibn-Qurra, 213 Numerals, 214 Trigonometry, 216 Tenth- and Eleventh-Century Highlights, 216 Omar Khayyam, 218 The Parallel Postulate, 220 Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, 220 Al-Kashi, 221	
<b>12 The Latin West</b>	<b>223</b>
Introduction, 223 Compendia of the Dark Ages, 224 Gerbert, 224 The Century of Translation, 226 Abacists and Algorists, 227 Fibonacci, 229 Jordanus Nemorarius, 232 Campanus of Novara, 233 Learning in the Thirteenth Century, 235 Archimedes Revived, 235 Medieval Kinematics, 236 Thomas Bradwardine, 236 Nicole Oresme, 238 The Latitude of Forms, 239 Infinite Series, 241 Levi ben Gerson, 242 Nicholas of Cusa, 243 The Decline of Medieval Learning, 243	
<b>13 The European Renaissance</b>	<b>245</b>
Overview, 245 Regiomontanus, 246 Nicolas Chuquet’s <i>Triparty</i> , 249 Luca Pacioli’s <i>Summa</i> , 251 German Algebras and Arithmetics, 253 Cardan’s <i>Ars Magna</i> , 255 Rafael Bombelli, 260 Robert Recorde, 262 Trigonometry, 263 Geometry, 264 Renaissance Trends, 271 François Viète, 273	
<b>14 Early Modern Problem Solvers</b>	<b>282</b>
Accessibility of Computation, 282 Decimal Fractions, 283 Notation, 285 Logarithms, 286 Mathematical Instruments, 290 Infinitesimal Methods: Stevin, 296 Johannes Kepler, 296	
<b>15 Analysis, Synthesis, the Infinite, and Numbers</b>	<b>300</b>
Galileo’s <i>Two New Sciences</i> , 300 Bonaventura Cavalieri, 303 Evangelista Torricelli, 306 Mersenne’s Communicants, 308 René Descartes, 309 Fermat’s Loci, 320 Gregory of St. Vincent, 325 The Theory of Numbers, 326 Gilles Persone de Roberval, 329 Girard Desargues and Projective Geometry, 330 Blaise Pascal, 332 Philippe de Lahire, 337 Georg Mohr, 338 Pietro Mengoli, 338 Frans van Schooten, 339 Jan de Witt, 340 Johann Hudde, 341 René François de Sluse, 342 Christiaan Huygens, 342	
<b>16 British Techniques and Continental Methods</b>	<b>348</b>
John Wallis, 348 James Gregory, 353 Nicolaus Mercator and William Brouncker, 355 Barrow’s Method of Tangents, 356	

Newton, 358	Abraham De Moivre, 372	Roger Cotes, 375	
James Stirling, 376	Colin Maclaurin, 376	Textbooks, 380	
Rigor and Progress, 381	Leibniz, 382	The Bernoulli Family, 390	
Tschirnhaus Transformations, 398	Solid Analytic Geometry, 399	Michel Rolle and Pierre Varignon, 400	
The Clairauts, 401	Mathematics in Italy, 402	The Parallel Postulate, 403	
Divergent Series, 404			
<b>17 Euler</b>			<b>406</b>
The Life of Euler, 406	Notation, 408	Foundation of Analysis, 409	
Logarithms and the Euler Identities, 413	Differential Equations, 414	Probability, 416	
The Theory of Numbers, 417	Textbooks, 418	Analytic Geometry, 419	
The Parallel Postulate: Lambert, 420			
<b>18 Pre- to Postrevolutionary France</b>			<b>423</b>
Men and Institutions, 423	The Committee on Weights and Measures, 424	D'Alembert, 425	
Bézout, 427	Condorcet, 429	Lagrange, 430	
Monge, 433	Carnot, 438	Laplace, 443	
Legendre, 446	Aspects of Abstraction, 449	Paris in the 1820s, 449	
Fourier, 450	Cauchy, 452	Diffusion, 460	
<b>19 Gauss</b>			<b>464</b>
Nineteenth-Century Overview, 464	Gauss: Early Work, 465	Number Theory, 466	
Reception of the <i>Disquisitiones Arithmeticae</i> , 469	Astronomy, 470	Gauss's Middle Years, 471	
Differential Geometry, 472	Gauss's Later Work, 473	Gauss's Influence, 474	
<b>20 Geometry</b>			<b>483</b>
The School of Monge, 483	Projective Geometry: Poncelet and Chasles, 485	Synthetic Metric Geometry: Steiner, 487	
Synthetic Nonmetric Geometry: von Staudt, 489	Analytic Geometry, 489	Non-Euclidean Geometry, 494	
Riemannian Geometry, 496	Spaces of Higher Dimensions, 498	Felix Klein, 499	
Post-Riemannian Algebraic Geometry, 501			
<b>21 Algebra</b>			<b>504</b>
Introduction, 504	British Algebra and the Operational Calculus of Functions, 505	Boole and the Algebra of Logic, 506	
Augustus De Morgan, 509	William Rowan Hamilton, 510	Grassmann and <i>Ausdehnungslehre</i> , 512	
Cayley and Sylvester, 515	Linear Associative Algebras, 519	Algebraic Geometry, 520	
Algebraic and Arithmetic Integers, 520	Axioms of Arithmetic, 522		

<b>22 Analysis</b>	<b>526</b>
Berlin and Göttingen at Midcentury, 526	Riemann in Göttingen, 527
Mathematical Physics in Germany, 528	Mathematical Physics in English-Speaking Countries, 529
Weierstrass and Students, 531	The Arithmetization of Analysis, 533
Dedekind, 536	Cantor and Kronecker, 538
Analysis in France, 543	
<b>23 Twentieth Century Legacies</b>	<b>548</b>
Overview, 548	Henri Poincaré, 549
David Hilbert, 555	Integration and Measure, 564
Functional Analysis and General Topology, 568	Algebra, 570
Differential Geometry and Tensor Analysis, 572	Probability, 573
Bounds and Approximations, 575	The 1930s and World War II, 577
Nicolas Bourbaki, 578	Homological Algebra and Category Theory, 580
Algebraic Geometry, 581	Logic and Computing, 582
The Fields Medals, 584	
<b>24 Recent Trends</b>	<b>586</b>
Overview, 586	The Four-Color Conjecture, 587
Classification of Finite Simple Groups, 591	Fermat's Last Theorem, 593
Poincaré's Query, 596	Future Outlook, 599
References, 601	
General Bibliography, 633	
Index, 647	