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Abstracts

Duncan J. Melville, Editor

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The purpose of this department is to give sufficient information about the subject matter of each publication to enable users to decide whether to read it. It is our intention to cover all books, articles, and other materials in the field.

Books for abstracting and eventual review should be sent to this department. Materials should be sent to Duncan J. Melville, Department of Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617, U.S.A. (e-mail: dmelville@stlawu.edu).

Readers are invited to send reprints, autoabstracts, corrections, additions, and notices of publications that have been overlooked. Be sure to include complete bibliographic information, as well as transliteration and translation for non-European languages. We need volunteers willing to cover one or more journals for this department.

In order to facilitate reference and indexing, entries are given abstract numbers which appear at the end following the symbol #. A triple numbering system is used: the first number indicates the volume, the second the issue number, and the third the sequential number within that issue. For example, the abstracts for Volume 40, Number 1, are numbered: 40.1.1, 40.1.2, 40.1.3, etc.

The initials in parentheses at the end of an entry indicate the abstractor. In this issue there are abstracts by Amy Ackerberg-Hastings, Christopher Hammond (New London, CT), Laura Martini, Kim Plofker, and Duncan J. Melville.

General

Betti, Renato. *Z for zero: If this is a number. Lettera Matematica* **5** (2) (2017), 217–220. From the summary: “This article traces the rise of zero as both symbol and number in Western culture.” (DJM) #45.3.1

Carrier, Martin. See #45.3.8.

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Ciliberto, Ciro. U for UMI: The Italian Mathematical Union. *Lettera Matematica* **5** (2) (2017), 191–193. This article presents history and activities of the UMI (Unione Matematica Italiana, or Italian Mathematical Union). (LM) #45.3.2

Curcio, Liliana. I for imaginary numbers: “Non-existing roots”. *Lettera Matematica* **5** (2) (2017), 125–129. This paper presents a survey of the history of complex numbers from their discovery to their complete acceptance and use in contemporary physics and mathematics. (LM) #45.3.3

Dewar, Jacqueline M. Women and mathematics: A course and a scholarly investigation. *British Society for the History of Mathematics Bulletin* **32** (3) (2017), 246–253. The author describes an interdisciplinary course on women and mathematics featuring biographies of women mathematicians from Hypatia to Emmy Noether that has been developed at Loyola Marymount University, principally aimed at future K-12 teachers, as well as documenting an assessment of the effects and success of the course. See the review by Malgorzata Marciniak in *Zentralblatt MATH* 06802443. (DJM) #45.3.4

Eschenburg, Jost-Hinrich. *Sternstunden der Mathematik [Fateful Hours of Mathematics]*. Heidelberg: Springer Spektrum, 2017, ix+214 pp. Eighteen vignettes from the history of mathematics written for a general audience, ranging from ancient Greece to quasicrystals. See the review by Franka Miriam Brückler in *Zentralblatt MATH* 1375.01007. (DJM) #45.3.5

Guerraggio, Angelo. Y for $y = f(x)$: The history of the notion of function in 15,000 characters. *Lettera Matematica* **5** (2) (2017), 213–216. This paper provides a survey of the history of the notion of function. (LM) #45.3.6

Kharlamova, Vera Ivanovna; Malonek, Helmuth Robert; and Santos, Sandrina Rafaela Andrade. The role of scientific journals in the internationalization of mathematics [in Portuguese]. *Revista Brasileira de História da Matemática. An International Journal on the History of Mathematics* **16** (32) (2016), 53–67. This article presents an overview of the evolution of scientific journals, including some details on the role of *Teixeira's Journal*, manifest in the *Jahrbuch über die Fortschritte der Mathematik*, and the influence on the inclusion of Portuguese mathematicians in the process of internationalization. (LM) #45.3.7

Lenhard, Johannes; and Carrier, Martin, eds. *Mathematics as a Tool. Tracing New Roles of Mathematics in the Sciences (Boston Studies in the Philosophy and History of Science, 327)*. Cham: Springer, 2017, x+286 pp. A collection of papers exploring connections between mathematics and the sciences. The papers with the most historical content for mathematics are abstracted separately as: #45.3.32; #45.3.49; and #45.3.95. (DJM) #45.3.8

Malonek, Helmuth Robert. See #45.3.7.

Nadis, Steve; and Yau, Shing-Tung. *A History in Sum: 150 Years of Mathematics at Harvard (1825–1975)*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013, xx+249 pp. Looks at mathematical achievements of Harvard professors to provide overview of modern mathematics for non-specialists. See the review by Della Dumbaugh in *Historia Mathematica* **45** (1) (2018), 85–90. (AAH) #45.3.9

Petersen, Christian. *Naturwissenschaften im Fokus I. Geschichtliche Entwicklung, Grundbegriffe, Mathematik [Natural Sciences in Focus I. Historical Development, Basic Concepts, Mathematics]*. Wiesbaden: Springer Vieweg, 2017, xv+205 pp. Volume I of a five-volume set on the *Natural Sciences in Focus* contains the mathematics needed for further applications in this and other volumes. The author takes an historical view, with necessarily brief vignettes from the ancient Greeks to modern times. See the review by Robert W. van der Waall in *Zentralblatt MATH* 1379.01001. (DJM) #45.3.10

Pierce, David. On commensurability and symmetry. *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* **7** (2) (2017), 90–148. The article explores the historical divergence of the “measuring-together” mathematical concepts

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