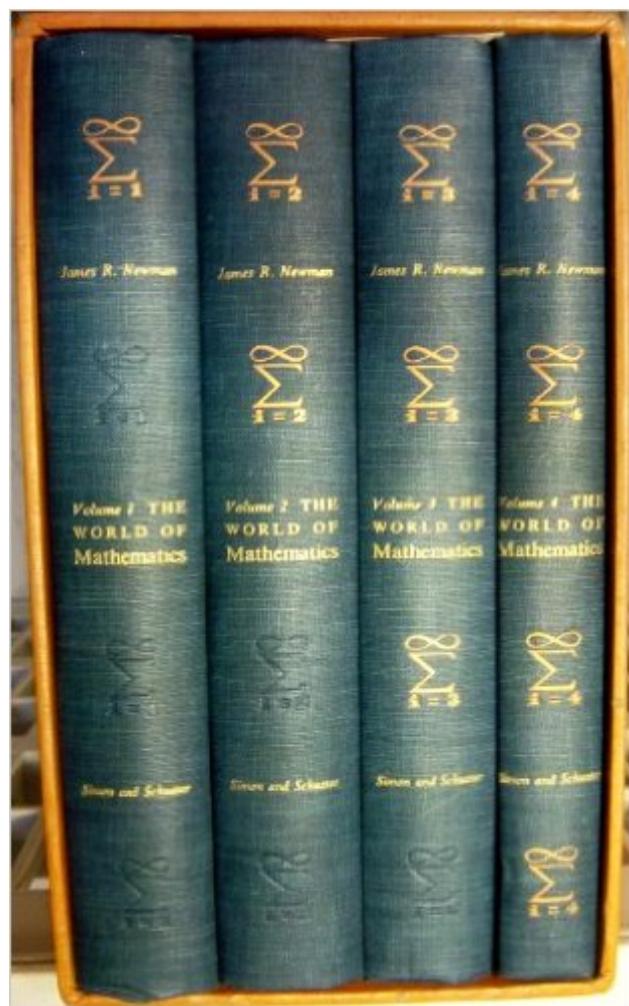


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The World Of Mathematics (4 Volumes)



Synopsis

The World of Mathematics (4 volumes)

Book Information

Hardcover: 2535 pages

Publisher: Simon and Schuster; Edition Not Stated edition (1956)

Language: English

ASIN: B001KI9LJC

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (25 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #275,218 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Reference

Customer Reviews

This four volume set is a gem. I bought this treasure back in 1973 but I still go back to it at least twice a week. The writing is uneven because of the different authors who have contributed articles. However, the substance of the book is top notch. Starting with the number system all the way to the differential calculus and parts of game theory, the book is a treasury of mathematical delights. Just pick a chapter, and you are sure to be sucked in. Another point I wish to make is the design and layout of the books. There are no slick, extra large, shiny page designs here. Just plain 6 by 8 size pages with appropriate black and white diagrams. This is when books used to be more like friends, often in one's company, and much perused. It is truly a shame that this series is out of print. If you happen to find it somewhere introduce yourself!!

I received this book from my father as a high school graduation gift to take with me as a budding mathematics student at college. I have been "dipping into it" ever since. It is a delicious compendium of all the neat things that have happened in mathematics and those disciplines that mathematics had touched up to the time that the book was written. I received my copy in 1960 and I still delight in looking things up when I see a reference in another book. I've deliberately resisted reading the four volumes from cover to cover as that would spoil the surprise and fun. Different chapters are written by different contributors so there is a wealth of viewpoints and styles. By the 90's the scientific disciplines have become quite adept at sharing their discoveries, but when this book was written it was not yet the accepted thing. So the perspective is very interesting. I looked up this book to see if

there would be any reviews, so I thought I should write one while I am here.

I read this book as a child more than 50 years ago. I was enthralled by its easy explanation of mathematical texts and its, to me, value in placing great math in an historical context. I remember taking a long train ride from Philadelphia to Omaha and these books were my constant pleasure and delight. A good book for any pre-teen or teen who is ready to read some great math in a challenging but digestible form (also a good book for folks older than a 13 - 15 year old).

Carl Friedrich Gauss, a famous 18th century mathematician said "Learn from the Masters". The World of mathematics gives us all this opportunity. This monumental collection of articles from the Masters throws light on all aspects and areas of Mathematics and mathematical sciences. Do you want to hear about Boolean algebra from Boole himself? Do you Want to hear about Turing machines from Turing himself? From Newton to Einstein, all the masters speak to you. The collection is well organized into different areas of mathematics. Abstract algebra to Logic to Geometry and Physics. Thru a series of wonderful articles from the masters of the field spanning several hundred years, one can understand the Length and breadth and depth of the wonderful world of Mathematics. You will slowly understand how mathematics is not just about numbers and counting and measurement. Will slowly begin to understand the unbelievable depth of abstractions it aims to capture. You will begin learning the structure and nature of mathematics..its approaches to modeling the intuitive world and then..extend it! In a way you will learn what the mind is capable of and is ultimately trying to achieve! A personal note: I started reading it during my undergraduate and after more than 10 years, still go back to it for more light. Thanks to Prof. Chandrasekar for recommending this to me.

I acquired this boxed set from a library sale for only \$5, and I didn't read any of it for almost a year, what a mistake that has been. The articles included are unabridged and begin with an amazing commentary by James Newman, which adds to the experience of reading the article, which a commentary should do. The articles range from simple to fairly complex, but they are all fairly easy to grasp with a marginal grasp of mathematics. All in all, this set is worth every penny that I paid for it, and much, much more.

I have owned a paperback copy of this compendium since it was first published. I had always intended to replace the set with the hardbound...hence my purchase. Seemingly dated, I believe this

set is still a viable and definitive history of Mathematics. It will provide hours of short nontechnical articles to stimulate and feed the imagination of students, scientists, mathematicians and/or others just interested in enhancing their knowledge.

Read through this collection of essays when I was in Grad School; my dissertation had partly to do with the history of math. Most of the essays were not related to the dissertation, but I just could not put the book down. There's a magnificent essay by Von Neuman on the Turing machine; and a wonderful essay by Russell on Newton, and on and on it goes. A treasure.

I received the 6-volume spanish version of this work from the Venezuelan Ministry of Education in 1982 as one of the prizes of the national math olympics. For anyone who has an interest in this subject and would like to get a taste of the breadth and variety of all the faces of this discipline, without getting too much into the details, this is an excellent work. I've looked for an English print, without success (although I've seen some volumes being sold second hand).

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