Contents

~

	Preface	xiii
1	"Sports and Pastimes, Done by Number": Mathematical Tricks, Mathematical Games	1
	The Well Spring of Sciences Humfrey Baker, 1564	2
	Mathematical Recreations Henry van Etten, 1633	4
	"How Prodigiously Numbers Do Increase" William Leybourne, 1667	9
	Profitable and Delightful Problems Jacques Ozanam, 1708	15
	Lotteries and Mountebanks L. Despiau, 1801	17
	Dodging the Mastodon and the Plesiosaurus Henry Ernest Dudeney, 1917	20
	"Plenty of Interesting Things to Be Discovered" NRICH, 1998–2004	27
2	"Much Necessary for All States of Men": From Arithmetic to Algebra	32
	Addition and Subtraction Robert Recorde, 1543	33
	Multiplication and Division Thomas Masterson, 1592	38
	Reducing Fractions John Tapp, 1621	41

CONTENTS

vi

	Decimal Fractions	
	Edward Hatton, 1695	44
	Extracting Square Roots	
	William Banson, 1760	46
	The Rule of Three	
	Wardhaugh Thompson, 1771	48
	The Rule of Three, in Verse	50
	Nathan Withy, 1792	50
	"The First Analysts"	5 2
	Joseph Fenn, 1775	52
	Quadratic Equations The Popular Educator, 1855	54
	-	34
	Cubic Equations for the Practical Man <i>J. E. Thompson</i> , 1931	56
). D. Thompson, 1201	30
3	"A Goodly Struggle": Problems, Puzzles, and Challenges	62
	The Ladies' Diary	
	1798	63
	The Girl's Own Book	
	Lydia Marie Child, 1835	69
	The Boy's Own Magazine	
	1855	71
	"The Analyst"	
	1874	72
	Can You Solve It?	74
	Arthur Hirschberg, 1926	74
	Mathematical Challenges 1989	77
	1707	//
4	"Drawyng, Measuring and Proporcion": Geometry and	
	Trigonometry	84
	Points and Lines	
	Robert Recorde, 1551	85

	CONTENTS	vii
	Squares and Triangles Thomas Rudd, 1650	87
	Pythagoras's Theorem Edmund Scarburgh, 1705	91
	Trigonometrical Definitions Edward Wells, 1714	94
	The Resolution of Triangles Hugh Worthington, 1780	97
	Introduction to Spherical Geometry Horatio Nelson Robinson, 1854	99
	Napier's Rules Alan Clive Gardner, 1956	103
5	Maps, Monsters, and Riddles: The Worlds of Mathematical Popularization	108
	The Athenian Mercury 1691–1697	109
	Newton for the Ladies Francesco Algarotti, 1739	113
	Maps and Mazes W. W. Rouse Ball, 1892	116
	"Einstein's Real Achievement" Oliver Lodge, 1921	120
	Riddles in Mathematics Eugene P. Northrop, 1945	123
	Fermat's Last Theorem Hans Rademacher and Otto Toeplitz, 1957	127
	Where Does It End? Dan Pedoe, 1958	133
	Yamátárájabhánasalagám Sherman K. Stein, 1963	139
	Saddles and Soap Bubbles Iakov Isaevich Khurgin, 1974	144

viii CONTENTS

	"The Monster" Unveiled	
	The Times, 1980	150
6	"To Ease and Expedite the Work": Mathematical Instruments and How to Use Them	152
	"Cards for the Sea" Martín Cortés, 1561	153
	Making a Horizontal Sundial Thomas Fale, 1593	155
	Speaking-Rods Seth Partridge, 1648	157
	Telescopes Refracting and Reflecting The Juvenile Encyclopedia, 1800–1801	161
	Scales Simple and Diagonal J. F. Heather, 1888	164
	Making a Star Clock Roy Worvill, 1974	168
	PC Astronomy Peter Duffet-Smith, 1997	172
7	"How Fine a Mind": Mathematicians Past	176
	The Labyrinth and Abyss of Infinity <i>Voltaire, 1733</i>	177
	"It Must Have Commenced with Mankind" Charles Hutton, 1796	179
	Kepler's Astronomical Publications Robert Small, 1804	182
	Isaac Newton, a Good and Great Man Anonymous, 1860	185

Automobiles and Printing

Samuel Slade and Louis Margolis, 1941

Teaching and Learning Mathematics

9 "The Speedier Expedition of Their Learning": Thoughts on

CONTENTS ix Pythagoras and His Theorem Thomas L. Heath, 1908 188 Seki Kōwa David Eugene Smith and Yoshio Mikami, 1914 190 "Her Absolute, Incomparable Uniqueness" B. L. van der Waerden, 1935 198 "One of Your Calculating Fits" George Bernard Shaw, 1939 200 Analysis Incarnate Carl Boyer, 1968 204 Hardy and Littlewood Rummage Robert Kanigel, 1991 210 8 "By Plain and Practical Rules": Mathematics at Work 216 High Marshal and Camp Master Leonard Digges, 1579 217 The Practical Gauger William Hunt, 1673 220 Geodæsia John Love, 1688 224 Plain Sailing Archibald Patoun, 1762 227 **High-Pressure Engines** William Templeton, 1833 230 The Strength of Materials Lucius D. Gould, 1853 233 Plumbing and Hydraulics William H. Dooley, 1920 237

241

245

CONTENTS

	"To Have Their Children or Servants Instructed"	
	Humfrey Baker, 1590	246
	Euclid with Algebra	
	Isaac Barrow, 1660	247
	The Idea of Velocity	
	Leonhard Euler, 1760	250
	Mathematical Toys	
	"Mrs Lovechild," 1785	252
	A Mother Explains Comets	
	Catherine Vale Whitwell, 1823	255
	"Geometry without Axioms"	
	Thomas Perronet Thompson, 1833	259
	The Game of Logic	
	Lewis Carroll, 1887	261
	Higher Mathematics for Women	
	Mrs. Henry Sidgwick, 1912	266
	A New Aspect of Mathematical Method	
	George Pólya, 1945	270
	New Math for Parents	
	Evelyn Sharp, 1966	274
	"Merely a Formal Statement of the Way We Think"	
	Robert E. Eicholz and Phares G. O'Daffer, 1964	277
	Turtle Fun	
	Serafim Gascoigne, 1985	282
10	"So Fundamentally Useful a Science": Reflections on	
10	Mathematics and Its Place in the World	290
	The Myrrour of the Worlde	
	Gossuin of Metz, 1481	291
	"A Very Fruitfull Praeface"	
	John Dee, 1570	293
	"Geometry Is Improving Daily"	
	Joseph Glanvill, 1664	296
	- 1	

An Ode to the Mathematics

Alfred Domett, 1833

CONTENTS хi The Fifth Element Edmund Scarburgh, 1705 300 Of Mathematics in General Richard Sault, 1710 302 Lineal Arithmetic William Playfair, 1798 304 Astronomy in New South Wales Charles Stargard Rumker, 1825 307 The Advantages of Mathematics William Barnes, 1834 309 Sylvester Contra Huxley J. J. Sylvester, 1870 314 What a Mathematical Proposition Is Cassius Jackson Keyser, 1929 315 The Character of Physical Law Richard P. Feynman, 1965 318 Our Invisible Culture Allen L. Hammond, 1978 322 11 The Mathematicians Who Never Were: Fiction and Humor 326 Spider-Men and Lice-Men Margaret Cavendish, 1666 327 In the Court of Lilliput "Captain Gulliver," 1727 332 Automathes John Kirkby, 1745 335 The Loves of the Triangles John Frere, 1798 340 Master Senex the Astronomer William Combe, 1815 343

346

xii CONTENTS

"Some Veritable Urania"	
Augusta Jane Evans, 1864	347
Fun	
1863, 1870	352
A Sight of Thine Interior	
Edwin A. Abbott, 1884	354
Scenes in the Life of Pythagoras	
Geoffrey Willans and Ronald Searle, 1953	359
Bao Suyo	
Kim Stanley Robinson, 1996	360
Index	367