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Bolzano, Bernard

★ *Las paradojas del infinito*. (Spanish) [Paradoxes of the infinite]

Edited and with a prologue by Fr. Přihonský.

Translated from the German by Luis Felipe Segura.

With an introduction by Jan Sebestik.

Mathema.

*Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Departamento de Matemáticas, Facultad de Ciencias, México City, 1991. 164 pp. ISBN 968-36-1887-1*

Bolzano's *magnus opus* [*Paradoxes of the infinite*] has finally been translated into Spanish. For all those interested in mathematics—especially mathematical analysis and its history and philosophy—this is welcome news. The translation was faithfully carried out from the original German edition of 1851 (reprinted in 1964), taking into consideration the notes by Han Hahns and Robert van Rootselaar.

This Spanish edition also contains a very handsome introduction by Jan Sebestik where he explains in some detail some of Bolzano's merits and failures. Nevertheless, there are two minor points concerning this introduction that I would like to emphasize. First, although the introduction clearly unravels the contents of this monograph, there is no discussion of Bolzano's background and the evolution of his thought before the *Paradoxes*. That is, we do not learn how Bolzano arrived at his ideas. The second point

passage from Galileo's *Two new sciences*, based on his example of the possible one-to-one correspondence between the whole collection of the natural numbers and the collection of their squares, Galileo concluded that it was impossible to compare between infinite sets and, therefore, that it was impossible to conceive the existence of an arithmetic of the infinite.

Finally, it is very unfortunate that this splendid translation lacks a subject index, which would make the product even more successful. What the editors call an index is simply a table of contents.

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