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Schirn, Matthias (D-MNCH; Munich)

**Frege on the purpose and fruitfulness of definitions.**

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From the introduction: "This paper discusses some problems in Frege's theory of definition. It begins by characterizing his conception of definitions in the *Begriffsschrift* [Nebert, Halle, 1879; Jbuch **11**, 48; second edition, Olms, Hildesheim, 1964; MR **29** #2155]. The second part deals with Frege's thesis about the systematic fruitfulness of 'good' definitions in mathematics and logic, which he states in 'Booles rechnende Logik und die Begriffsschrift' [Nachgelassene Schriften **1880/81**, 9–52; per bibl.; English translation, in *Posthumous writings*, 9–46, Univ. Chicago Press, Chicago, IL, 1979] and in *Die Grundlagen der Arithmetik* [Koebner, Breslau, 1884; English translation, Philos. Lib., New York, 1950; MR **11**, 487]. In his mature period, Frege abandoned this thesis. The concluding and main part of the paper investigates in detail the change of mind which he underwent concerning the purpose and value of definitions."

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