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Georg Cantor. His mathematics and philosophy of the infinite. Reprint of the orig. publ. by Harvard University Press 1979.

Princeton, NJ etc.: Princeton University Press, (ISBN 0-691-02447-2/pbk; 0-691-08583-8/hbk), xiv, 404 p. (1990).

This new reprint of the original edition published by Harvard University Press (1979; see the review in Zbl 463.01009) simply confirms what professional historians of mathematics claimed (see, among others, Hawkins (1981), Lewis (1980), Moore (1980) and Schmid (1980)) almost 20 years ago: The author's reconstruction of how Cantor created his theory of transfinite numbers is the standard source in this field. The amount of secondary literature [e.g., W. Purkert and H. J. Nagels, *Georg Cantor 1845-1918*. Basel: Birkhäuser (1987; Zbl 617.01018); J. Ferreira, *El nacimiento de la teoría de conjuntos, 1854-1908*. (Madrid 1991). *Traditional logic and the early history of sets, 1854-1908*, Arch. Hist. Exact. Sci. 50, No. 1, 5-71 (1996), among others] is extremely significant now revolving around the author's interpretation. The structure of the book might be divided into two main components: 1) those sections of the book discussing Cantor's technical developments (e.g., Cantor's papers on trigonometric functions, theory of point sets, cardinal and ordinal transfinite numbers, etc.); and, 2) those other sections dealing with nonmathematical issues (e.g., Cantor's mental health, Cantor's theological considerations, etc.). Both components fit together to explain Cantor's complex personality and work, taking the author's analysis and synthesis well beyond previous personal and intellectual biographies on Cantor. Unfortunately, due, most probably, to commercial costs and printing policy, the author was unable to update some of his thoughts, to include more and new previously unpublished correspondence and to correct some of the errors and misprints already mentioned by reviewers.

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