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Archimedes. *Around the circle.* (Arquímedes. *Alrededor del círculo.*) (Spanish). *La Matemática en sus Personajes. 1.*

Madrid: Nivola Libros Ediciones, (ISBN 84-930719-1-0/pbk). 136 p. Ptas 2350.00 (1999).

This brief book, the first of a new series on mathematical biographies, is a very successful introduction to anyone interested in Archimedes. There is a first chapter describing the background of Greek mathematics, followed by an up to date summary of what little is known about Archimedes' personal life. Then, the rest of the book, and this is a bonus for any beginner, contains a clear and introductory discussion of some of the relevant ideas of Archimedes major works.

The book includes a basic bibliography. Nevertheless, there are a couple of reflections that may be pondered for the following monographs in the same series. First, taking into consideration that this is perhaps the first time that the reader (a non professional historian of mathematics) may be examining historical items, it is extremely important to list only those sources that, due to its quality, depth and relevance, may enlight the awareness of key historical questions. For this reason, it is imperative to avoid those secondary sources of questionable significance (in this case, for example, Collete and Rihnikov, among others). Second, the list should include, at least, a couple of items originally addressed to professional historians (in this case, for example, readings from the late Wilbur Knorr) to provide an opportunity, to more advanced readers, to pursue deeper queries and interests.

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