

Dedekind, Richard

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The nature and purpose of numbers. And other writings on the foundations of mathematics. Translated from the German, edited and with an introduction by José Ferreirós. (Qué son y para qué sirven los números. Y otros escritos sobre los fundamentos de la matemática) (Spanish)

Madrid: Alianza Editorial (ISBN 84-206-4243-6). 194 p. (1998).

This Spanish edition includes, among other sources, a translation of Dedekind's classic "Was sind und was sollen die Zahlen?" see Zbl 88.04102 and Zbl 111.05301 and is enriched by: an extremely critical and penetrating historical introduction; by a brief commented bibliography (of contemporary Spanish historical and philosophical sources); and, a practical index. In his introduction, Ferreirós discusses, among other issues: Dedekind's mathematical background; the development of his ideas on sets through his algebraic researches; and, his understanding of the foundations of arithmetic. Then, Ferreirós analyses, in detail, the contributions, meaning and context of the translated essays. Finally, Ferreirós discusses Dedekind's intellectual association with Cantor and Dedekind's philosophy of mathematics.

[See also L. Corry's previous review in Lull 21, No. 42, 838-842 (1998)].

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