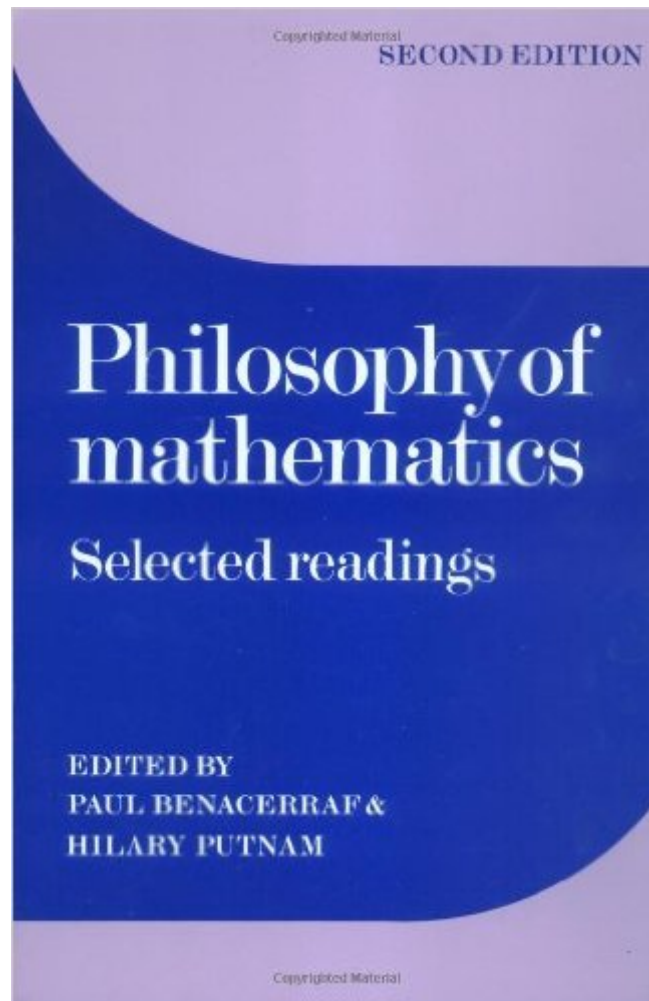


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Philosophy Of Mathematics: Selected Readings



Synopsis

The twentieth century has witnessed an unprecedented 'crisis in the foundations of mathematics', featuring a world-famous paradox (Russell's Paradox), a challenge to 'classical' mathematics from a world-famous mathematician (the 'mathematical intuitionism' of Brouwer), a new foundational school (Hilbert's Formalism), and the profound incompleteness results of Kurt G del. In the same period, the cross-fertilization of mathematics and philosophy resulted in a new sort of 'mathematical philosophy', associated most notably (but in different ways) with Bertrand Russell, W. V. Quine, and G del himself, and which remains at the focus of Anglo-Saxon philosophical discussion. The present collection brings together in a convenient form the seminal articles in the philosophy of mathematics by these and other major thinkers. It is a substantially revised version of the edition first published in 1964 and includes a revised bibliography. The volume will be welcomed as a major work of reference at this level in the field.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The amazing thing about the little handful of books on Mathematical Philosophy--2 by Shapiro, Frege, Russell and of course Benacerraf and Putnam's classic, is the paucity of literature in this key field! Some will say that mathematical philosophy, or the closely related philosophy of mathematics, only began in the 1980's in earnest. But reading the "big 5" shows threads going back to antiquity. The field is far from settled, and the two aspects--the philosophy of math itself, and the closely related field of applying math and logic TO other branches of philosophy, has enough active journalized information in the mid 2014+ years to fill 50 volumes. Since thousands have been

written in mainline philosophy, and even the philosophy of science as well as logic, this is not without surprise and mystery. The good news is that an invested, energetic reader can pick up this handful of keys and be in the top percent of folks on the planet with a good foundation! This is hardly true of any other field. I'd start with Shapiro's Oxford Encyclopedia, study Benacerraf and Putnam's classic collection of essays, then finish with Shapiro's deep and difficult "Thinking about" and of course Russell and Frege for historic and specialized puzzle pieces. One "sleeper" I'd like to recommend that is not usually included in comparisons of books in this field is Steinhart: *More Precisely: The Math You Need to Do Philosophy*. Eric helps with both math within philosophy (the basics) and tangentially helps with the math used as examples within the philosophy OF math. Beyond the issues of categorization, discovery, math as model vs.

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