

1018-01-51

Thomas Drucker* (druckert@uww.edu), Department of Math. and Computer Sciences,
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mathematics in the late twentieth century.*

Imre Lakatos' Proofs and Refutations found a sizable role for history in an account of the philosophy of mathematics. This was connected with placing the philosophy of mathematics within the broader area of the philosophy of science. The same feature was characteristic of Philip Kitcher's subsequent treatment of the nature of mathematical knowledge. By contrast, a recent development like the neo-Fregean school of Crispin Wright and Bob Hale (among others) seems to have arisen out of largely ahistorical considerations. This talk will look at the historical roots of neo-Fregean attempts to provide a philosophy of mathematics. It will also argue that some of the prestige that the philosophy of mathematics enjoys within philosophy has been at the cost of ignoring historical elements crucial to the subject's development. (Received February 19, 2006)