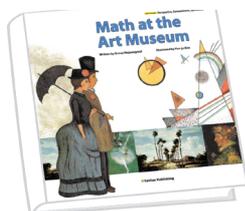


A man is known by the books he reads. —Emerson

New and Noteworthy Titles on Our Bookshelf February 2016:



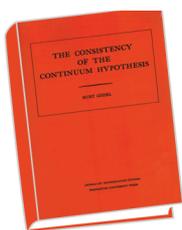
Math at the Art Museum, by Group Majoongmul and illustrated by Yun-ju Kim (Tantan Books, April 2015). This book appears in the Tantan Math Story series, which the publisher's website describes as "Interesting and moving mathematical education through literature."

Originally written in Korean, the books take a "literary approach to mathematical education." *Math at the Art Museum* was written by a group of Korean authors called "Majoongmul", which is a Korean word referring to priming a pump to start water flowing. The idea, the website says, is "to create books that serve as the priming water within children's hearts."

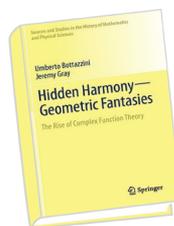


The Humans, by Matt Haig (Simon and Schuster, reprint edition, August 2014). Alex Kasman of the College of Charleston, in his "Mathematical Fiction" website (kasmana.people.cofc.edu/MATH-FICT/), summarizes the plot of this novel: "After Cambridge mathematician Andrew Martin proves the Riemann

Hypothesis, he is replaced by an alien whose job it is to prevent news of the discovery from spreading." The aliens believe that humans are not ready for the power the proof would bestow on them. "Of course, there is no reason to think that a proof of the Riemann Hypothesis would actually have any dramatic impact on the human race," Kasman continues. "But, then, the mathematics is not really the main focus of the book... [The alien's] growing appreciation of humanity and the things we have made (from peanut butter to pop music)... seems to be the key point." The novel received excellent reviews; BookPage had this to say: "A reverence for mathematics and history...runs through the book, cutting through some of the sentimentality with a healthy dose of intellectualism."



Annals of Mathematics Studies: The distinguished monograph series has been published by Princeton University Press since 1940. Soon all volumes will be available again in paperback.



Hidden Harmony—Geometric Fantasies: The Rise of Complex Function Theory, by Umberto Bottazzini and Jeremy Gray (Springer, June 2013). The authors of this book are outstanding historians of mathematics, both of whom have received the AMS Albert Leon Whiteman Memorial Prize for excellent exposition and exceptional scholarship in the history of mathematics. The book tells the story of the development of complex function theory from its origins in the work of Cauchy, Riemann, and Weierstrass, up to 1914. In *Mathematical Reviews*, Karl-Heinz Schlote writes: "Rising from almost nothing, complex function theory became more and more involved with other fields of mathematics and established stimulating and fruitful interactions" with various areas of pure and applied mathematics. This is the first truly comprehensive history of this topic, offering a wealth of well-documented information. Schlote concludes: "The book is highly recommended for historians of mathematics, mathematicians with historical interests, and everyone who is interested in complex function theory and its history."

The AMS maintains a comprehensive list of reviews of popular mathematics books on its Reviews page at www.ams.org/news/math-in-the-media/reviews. The list in each edition of Bookshelf highlights current books that have mathematical themes and are aimed at a broad audience potentially including mathematicians, students, and the general public.

Suggestions for books to include on the list should be sent to notices-booklist@ams.org.