

*Gesammelte Abhandlungen*, by Sophus Lie, edited by Friedrich Engel and Poul Heergaard, Volume VI, edited by Friedrich Engel, Leipzig, Teubner and Oslo, Aschehoug, 1927, xxiv + 940 pp.

A free translation of a passage (pp. xxi–xxii) from the editor’s introduction will not be without interest:

“If one should go through the whole history of mathematics, I believe that he will not find a second case where, from a few general thoughts, which at first sight do not appear promising, has been developed so extensive and wide-reaching a theory. Considered as an edifice of thought Lie’s theory is a work of art which must stir up admiration and astonishment in every mathematician who penetrates it deeply. This work of art appears to me to be a production in every way comparable with that... of a Beethoven... It is therefore entirely comprehensible if Lie... was embittered that ‘deren Wesen, ja Existenz, den Mathematikern fortwährend unbekannt zu sein scheint’ (p. 680). This deplorable situation, which Lie himself felt so keenly, exists no longer, at least in Germany. In order to do whatever lies in my power to improve the situation still further, . . . I have sought to clarify all the individual matters (Einzelheiten) and all the brief suggestions in these memoirs.”

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