

Known Errors in
Math through the Ages
Expanded Second Edition

Fernando Q. Gouvêa

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Listed here are the typos and other mistakes that Bill Berlinghoff and I are aware of. The abbreviation MttA stands for *Math through the Ages*, expanded second edition. The abbreviation IG stands for the *Instructor's Guide*.

If you find other errors, please let us know!

1. Sketch 7 (MttA, page 111). 7.346 mm is not 1/6 in! 1/3 in is more like it, but 0.3 in is closer.

2. Sketch 8, Question 6 (page 122 in MttA, page 33 in the IG). Somehow we were off by a century in our dates for *Gargantua and Pantagruel*. So replace item (ii) on page 122 with

(ii) The Thirty Years' War raged in central Europe.

and replace part (e) in the IG, page 33 with

e. (ii) The Thirty Years' War raged in central Europe. (The Thirty Years' War (1618–1648) was a series of religious, political, and territorial conflicts fought by many of the countries in northern and central Europe. It was ended by the Treaty of Westphalia, which redrew many European national boundaries. Descartes was a soldier in some of the early battles.

3. Sketch 9, Question 1 (page 33 in the IG). “a factor of $\frac{11}{10}$ ” should be “a factor of $\frac{10}{11}$ ”, and so the computation should read

$$\frac{10}{11} \cdot 6 = \frac{60}{11} = 5 \frac{4}{11} = 5 \frac{1}{3} \frac{1}{11} \frac{1}{33}.$$

(It's hard to know how the Egyptian scribe would have represented the number: we took the representation of $2/11$ in the Rhind papyrus, doubled it, and added $1/11$. We should check with David Reimer.) So, in Egyptian style the answer is “five, the third, the eleventh, and the thirty-third.”

4. Sketch 11, Question 6 (page 140 of MttA). “Leonardo” de Medici should be Lorenzo de Medici.

5. Sketch 17 (MttA, page 181). Descartes did talk about “imaginary” roots of polynomials, but it's not clear that he meant *complex* roots. Fernando thinks he meant that we should imagine the roots we cannot actually observe.

6. Sketch 27, Question 4, part c (MttA, page 261). There is no way to compute $\log(35)$ from the given information. As the IG shows, we meant $\log(343)$. So replace $\log(35)$ with $\log(343)$.

7. MttA back cover. Somehow a comma was lost, with the result that Glen van Brummelen seems to have been the president of Quest University. In fact Glen was president of CSHPM in the period indicated, and was a professor at Quest University.