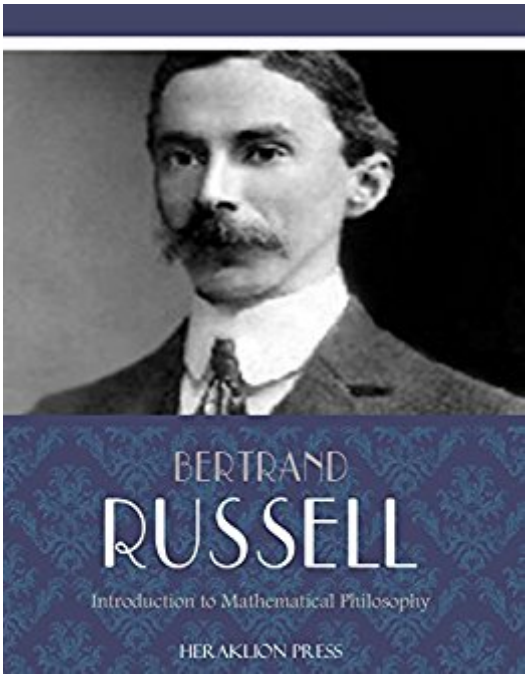
Introduction To Mathematical Philosophy



Synopsis

Bertrand Russell (1872 â “ 1970) was a British philosopher, mathematician, social critic, and political activist. Russell is considered to be one of the founders of analytic philosophy and one of the most important mathematicians and logicians in the 20th century. This edition of Russellâ ™s Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy includes a table of contents.

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Customer Reviews

Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead created the monumental work Principia Mathematica (1910-1913), the ambitious and comprehensive effort to provide a detailed reduction of the whole of mathematics to logic. In 1919 Russell was jailed for antiwar protests and while in prison he wrote Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy, a seminal work in the field for more than 70 years.I have devoted substantial time and effort to this 200 page book. Unless you are a student of logic, this book may not be for you. I suggest alternatives below.I stayed the course and worked my way through each chapter, sometimes backing up, and often repeating several chapters before advancing again. Bertrand Russell is admired for his eloquence and style. Nonetheless, I can assure you that a methodical reading will require much effort.I was forewarned. At one point a friend and colleague, a previous professor of mathematics at Texas A&M, expressed surprise that I was

tackling this particular book. He considered Russell's work to be dated and not particularly easy going. I continued plodding along.Russell begins with familiar ground, Peano's effort to derive the entire theory of natural numbers from five premises and three undefined terms (primitives). Russell demonstrates why Peano's approach fails to serve as an adequate basis for arithmetic.In chapter 2 Russell introduces the work of Frege, who first succeeded in logicising arithmetic. We are led to a definition of number: the number of a class is the class of all those classes that are similar to it, or more simply, a number is anything which is the number of some class.The third chapter introduces properties termed hereditary, posterity, and inductive.

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