CONTENTS

Preface xi
Acknowledgments xiii

PART I FOUNDATIONS

1 The First Geometers 3
  1.1 Egypt 6
  1.2 Babylon 13
  1.3 China 20

2 Thales 27
  2.1 The Axiomatic System 29
  2.2 Deductive Logic 35
  2.3 Proof Writing 43

3 Plato and Aristotle 53
  3.1 Form 56
  3.2 Categorical Propositions 62

vii
3.3 Categorical Syllogisms 72
3.4 Figures 77

PART II THE GOLDEN AGE

4 Pythagoras 87
4.1 Number Theory 91
4.2 The Pythagorean Theorem 98
4.3 Archytas 102
4.4 The Golden Ratio 110

5 Euclid 123
5.1 The Elements 124
5.2 Constructions 130
5.3 Triangles 138
5.4 Parallel Lines 147
5.5 Circles 159
5.6 The Pythagorean Theorem Revisited 167

6 Archimedes 173
6.1 The Archimedean Library 174
6.2 The Method of Exhaustion 182
6.3 The Method 193
6.4 Preliminaries to the Proof 204
6.5 The Volume of a Sphere 214

PART III ENLIGHTENMENT

7 François Viète 227
7.1 The Analytic Art 229
7.2 Three Problems 236
7.3 Conic Sections 246
7.4 The Analytic Art in Two Variables 257

8 René Descartes 267
8.1 Compasses 269
8.2 Method 274
8.3 Analytic Geometry 279


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>ix</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

9  **Gérard Desargues**  293

9.1 Projections  294
9.2 Points at Infinity  298
9.3 Theorems of Desargues and Menelaus  306
9.4 Involution  312

**PART IV A STRANGE NEW WORLD**

10 **Giovanni Saccheri**  323

10.1 The Question of Parallels  324
10.2 The Three Hypotheses  330
10.3 Conclusions for Two Hypotheses  337
10.4 Properties of Parallel Lines  340
10.5 Parallelism Redefined  349

11 **Johann Lambert**  353

11.1 The Three Hypotheses Revisited  355
11.2 Polygons  360
11.3 Omega Triangles  373
11.4 Pure Reason  383

12 **Nicolai Lobachevski and János Bolyai**  393

12.1 Parallel Fundamentals  397
12.2 Horocycles  404
12.3 The Surface of a Sphere  414
12.4 Horospheres  424
12.5 Evaluating the Pi Function  431

**PART V NEW DIRECTIONS**

13 **Bernhard Riemann**  443

13.1 Metric Spaces  445
13.2 Topological Spaces  457
13.3 Stereographic Projection  464
13.4 Consistency of Non-Euclidean Geometry  471

14 **Jean-Victor Poncelet**  483

14.1 The Projective Plane  486
14.2 Duality  492
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.3 Perspectivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.4 Homogeneous Coordinates</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 Felix Klein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.1 Group Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.2 Transformation Groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.3 The Principal Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.4 Isometries of the Plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.5 Consistency of Euclidean Geometry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References 565

Index 573