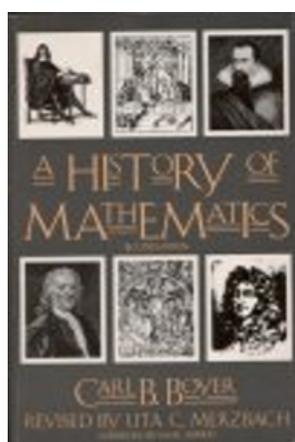

Book Review¹
History of mathematics
by **C. B. Boyer, U. C. Merzbach**

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This book is an attempt to record the milestones in the evolution of mathematics as we know today. It is not easy to summarise and chronicle thousands of years of mathematical thinking into a single volume. This book therefore calls for serious study by all those who indulge in mathematics. A study of such a historical document would give the reader the kind of insight which he/she will need to appreciate the state of mathematics today.

This 715 page book is available in paperback form. It differs from most other books of history. It is not a dull narration of a sequence of events. It gives a lively presentation of the context in which mathematicians did what they did, and how mathematics evolved over the ages. The text includes several illustrations to highlight the point under discussion. The text itself is organised temporally as well as geographically. A table at the end of the book, chronologically lists the historical milestones in the evolution of mathematics and compares it with historical events of the corresponding period (50,000 BCE to 1980 CE). The book is complete in itself as it includes a huge list of references (organised by Chapter) and a detailed Bibliography.

This book would be very valuable for mathematics teachers who wish to give a “complete picture” of mathematical concepts they teach in the classroom.

Isaac Asimov, in his foreword to this book, sums it up so well. “Nothing pertaining to humanity becomes us so well as mathematics. There and only there, do we touch the human mind at its peak.”

¹C. B. Boyer, U. C. Merzbach, Foreword by Isaac Asimov, History of mathematics, Pub.: John Wiley and Sons.

²About the Reviewer: <http://drpartha.org.in/>