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Resnikoff, H. L. [[Resnikoff, Howard L.](#)] (1-MIT);

Wells, R. O., Jr. [[Wells, Raymond O., Jr.](#)] (1-RICE)

★**Mathematik im Wandel der Kulturen.** (German) [[**Mathematics in civilization**]]

Translated from the English by Rena Schwarze Wells.

Friedr. Vieweg & Sohn, Braunschweig, 1983. vii+338 *pp.* DM 49.50.

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This book is a translation of *Mathematics in civilization* [Holt, Rinehart & Winston, New York, 1973; [MR0360107](#)], which had its origin in lectures given to undergraduates at Rice University in Houston, Texas, during 1969–72. Added to the translation is a 16 page appendix on 20th century mathematics. The authors introduce their young readers (and older ones can also enjoy their exposition) to some of the more fascinating theories and applications of mathematics from the time of the Babylonians to the present time, only presupposing the knowledge of high school mathematics including trigonometry. Stress is placed (1) on computational methods, and (2) on the geometrical nature of space. Such methods include Babylonian sexagesimal calculus as well as logarithms and its history. There are sections on cartography (Mercator), navigation, the development of infinitesimal calculus and differential geometry (esp. curvature). The appendix deals with some aspects of quantum mechanics and mathematical logic.

The book is attractively published, has a pleasant text and good figures. *D. J. Struik*