

A History of Pi

By Petr Beckmann

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The history of pi, says the author, though a small part of the history of mathematics, is nevertheless a mirror of the history of man. Petr Beckmann holds up this mirror, giving the background of the times when pi made progress -- and also when it did not, because science was being stifled by militarism or religious fanaticism.

A History of Pi By Petr Beckmann Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #66994 in Books
- Brand: St Martin s Griffin
- Published on: 1976-07-15
- Released on: 1976-07-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .32" h x .2" w x 5.55" l, .41 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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“A very readable account.” ?*Science*

“A cheerful work.” ?*Scientific American*

From the Back Cover

The history of pi, says the author, though a small part of the history of mathematics, is nevertheless a mirror of the history of man. Petr Beckmann holds up this mirror, giving the background of the times when pi made progress and also when it did not, because science was being stifled by militarism or religious fanaticism. The mathematical level of this book is flexible, and there is plenty for readers of all ages and interests.

About the Author

Petr Beckmann was born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, in 1924. Until 1963, he worked as a research scientist for the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, when he was invited as a Visiting Professor to the University of Colorado, where he decided to stay permanently as professor of electrical engineering. He has authored eleven books and more than fifty scientific papers, mostly on probability theory and electromagnetic wave propagation.

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