Book Reviews


(As a courtesy to the uninitiated, we remark that the above space is unintentionally left blank.)


C. Wetherell, *Etudes for Programmers*, Prentice-Hall, 1978, 200 pp. This honest, practical, and balanced textbook manages to convey not only the discipline but also the giddy exhilaration of computer programming; a book a hacker would not be ashamed to own.


H. H. Goldstine, *A History of Numerical Analysis from the 16th through the 19th Century*, Springer, 1977, 348 pp; C. C. Heyde and E. Seneta, *I. J. Bienayme: Statistical Theory Anticipated*, Springer, 1977, 175 pp. Mathematicians are, after all, the major consumers of history of mathematics, a fact which historians of mathematics often forget. These two books—the first, an account of numerical analysis so clear that it may be used as a textbook; the second, an important contribution to the genealogy of genealogy—are delightful examples of how to write relevant history. Modern mathematicians would find them useful introductions to the works of the old masters.

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