

Table of Contents

Part One. Algebraic Equations

Chapter 1. Three Muslimic Authors	3
Part A. Al-Khwārizmī	3
1. The Man and his Work	3
2. Al-jabr and al-muqabala	4
3. On Mensuration	5
4. On the Jewish Calendar	7
5. On Legacies	7
6. The Solution of Quadratic Equations	7
7. The Geography	9
8. On Hindu Numerals	9
9. The Astronomical Tables	9
10. The “Sindhind”	10
11. The “Method of the Persians”	11
12. Al-Khwārizmī’s Sources	13
Part B. Tabit ben Qurra	15
The Sabians	15
The Life of Tabit ben Qurra	16
On the Motion of the Eighth Sphere	17
Geometrical Verification of the Solution of Quadratic Equations	18
On Amicable Numbers	21
Part C. Omar Khayyam	24
The Algebra of Omar Khayyam	24
Omar Khayyam on Ratios	29
Chapter 2. Algebra in Italy	32
Part A. From Leonardo da Pisa to Luca Pacioli	32
The Connection Between Trade and Civilization in Medieval Italy	32
Life and Work of Fibonacci	33
1. The “Liber Abbaci”	35
2. The “Practica geometriae”	39
3. The Book “Flos”	40
4. The Letter to Theodorus	40
5. The “Liber quadratorum”	40

Three Florentine Abbacists	42
1. Maestro Benedetto	42
2. Maestro Biaggio	43
3. Antonio Mazzinghi	44
Two Anonymous Manuscripts	45
Luca Pacioli	46
Part B. Master Dardi of Pisa	47
Part C. The Solution of Cubic and Biquadratic Equations	52
Scipione del Ferro	52
Tartaglia and Cardano	54
Lodovico Ferrari	56
Rafael Bombelli	59
Chapter 3. From Viète to Descartes	63
François Viète	63
Simon Stevin	68
Pierre de Fermat	69
René Descartes	72
Chapter 4. The Predecessors of Galois	76
Waring	76
Vandermonde	77
Lagrange	79
Malfatti	81
Ruffini	83
Cauchy	85
Abel	85
Chapter 5. Carl Friedrich Gauss	89
The Cyclotomic Equation	89
The “Fundamental Theorem”	94
The First Proof	95
The Second Proof	97
The Third Proof	99
Chapter 6. Evariste Galois	103
The Work of Galois	103
The Duel	104
The Memoir of 1831	105
Galois Fields	109
The Publication of Galois’ Papers	112
Hermite, Puiseux, and Serret	112
Enrico Betti	114
The Second Posthumous Memoir of Galois	115
Chapter 7. Camille Jordan	117
Jordan’s <i>Traité</i>	117
On Groups of Motions	118

On Congruences	121
Transitive and Primitive Groups of Substitutions	121
Series of Composition	121
Linear Substitutions	122
Jordan's Presentation of Galois Theory	124
Geometrical Applications	125
The 28 Double Tangents of a Plane Quartic	128
Application of Galois Theory to Transcendental Functions	131
On Solvable Groups	133

Part Two. Groups

Chapter 8. Early Group Theory	137
Part A. Groups of Substitutions	137
Early Theorems Concerning Subgroups of S_n	137
Mathieu	139
Sylow	139
Part B. Groups of Transformations	140
Non-Euclidean Geometry	141
Felix Klein and Sophus Lie	144
Felix Klein on Finite Groups of Fractional Linear Transformations	145
Sophus Lie	146
Part C. Abstract Groups	147
Leonhard Euler	147
Carl Friedrich Gauss	148
Ernst Schering	149
Leopold Kronecker	149
Arthur Cayley	150
Walter von Dyck	152
Heinrich Weber	153
Part D. The Structure of Finite Groups	154
Otto Hölder	155
Finite Linear Groups	158
Chapter 9. Lie Groups and Lie Algebras	160
Part A. Lie Groups	160
Lie's Theory	160
Infinitesimal Transformations	162
Three Fundamental Theorems	163
Part B. Lie Algebras	165
Sophus Lie and Friedrich Engel	166
Wilhelm Killing	166
Élie Cartan	168
The Characteristic Roots	168

Semi-Simple Lie Groups	170
Weyl's Group (S)	172
Real Simple Lie Algebras	173

Part Three. Algebras

Chapter 10. The Discovery of Algebras	177
Complex Numbers	177
Hamilton's Discovery of Quaternions	179
The Leap into the Fourth Dimension	181
Octonions	183
Product Formulae for Sums of Squares	184
Geometrical Applications of Quaternions	185
The Arithmetic of Quaternions	186
Biquaternions	188
Full Matrix Algebras	189
Group Algebras	190
Grassmann's Calculus of Extensions	191
Clifford Algebras and Rotations in n Dimensions	192
Dirac's Theory of the Spinning Electron	194
Spinors in n Dimensions	195
Chevalley's Generalization	197
Generalized Quaternions	197
Crossed Products	199
Cyclic Algebras	200
Chapter 11. The Structure of Algebras	202
General Notions and Notations	202
Benjamin Peirce	203
Eduard Study	204
Gauss, Weierstrass and Dedekind	204
Georg Scheffers	205
Theodor Molien	206
Élie Cartan	208
Maclagan Wedderburn	210
Emil Artin	210
Emmy Noether and her School	211
Nathan Jacobson	211
Normal Simple Algebras	212
The Structure of Division Algebras	213
1. Division Algebras over \mathbb{R}	214
2. Finite Skew Fields	214
3. Normal Simple Algebras over a P -adic Field	214
4. Division Algebras over an Algebraic Number Field	215

Chapter 12. Group Characters	218
Part A. Characters of Abelian Groups	218
Genera and Characters of Quadratic Forms	218
Duality in Abelian Groups	221
Part B. Characters of Finite Groups	223
Dedekind's Introduction of the Group Determinant	223
Frobenius on the Group Determinant	225
Frobenius on Commuting Matrices	229
The Letter of April 17, 1896	231
The Letter of April 26	233
Frobenius' Paper "Über Gruppencharaktere"	234
The Proof of $e=f$ and the Factorization of the Group Determinant	236
Chapter 13. Representations of Finite Groups and Algebras	237
Heinrich Maschke	238
Issai Schur	239
Representations of the Symmetric Group	240
The Representation of Groups by Projective Transformations	243
Emmy Noether	244
1. Group-Theoretical Foundations	244
2. Non-Commutative Ideal Theory	245
3. Modules and Representations	246
4. Representations of Groups and Algebras	248
Chapter 14. Representations of Lie Groups and Lie Algebras	252
Cartan's Theory	252
The Global Method	253
The Infinitesimal Method	254
Hermann Weyl	257
John von Neumann	261
Index	265