Contents

From the Foreword to the Russian Edition Translator's Note	vii xi
Ars Magna (The Great Art)	1
Appendix: From De Vita Propria Liber (The Book of My Life)	19
Two Tales of Galileo	25
I. The Discovery of the Laws of Motion	25
II. The Medicean Stars	42
Appendix: Olaf Römer's Conjecture	71
Christiaan Huygens, Pendulum Clocks, and a Curve	
"Not At All Considered by the Ancients"	75
Appendix: Part Five of Horlogium Oscillatorium	92
Blaise Pascal	95
Prince of Mathematicians	115
I. Gauss' Debut	115
II. The Golden Theorem	131
III. Royal Days	141
Appendix: Construction Problems Leading to Cubic Equations	154