

# Contents

Foreword	v
Preface	vii
<b>1. Some Extraordinary Properties of Infinite Sets</b>	
The Extraordinary Hotel, or the Thousand and First Journey of Ion the Quiet	4
From the Author	14
<b>2. Sets and Operations on Sets</b>	
What Do We Mean by a Set?	16
How We Specify a Set	18
To Shave or Not to Shave?	21
The Empty Set	24
The Theory of Sets and Elementary Mathematics	26
Subsets	27
The Universal Set	29
The Intersection of Sets	29
Union of Sets	31
Partitioning of Sets	35
Subtraction of Sets	37
The Algebra of Sets	39
Boolean Algebras	41
<b>3. The Cardinality of Sets</b>	
Equality between Sets	43
On the Dance Floor	44

For Every Flow There Is an Ebb	46
Can a Part Be Equal to the Whole?	47
Countable Sets	49
Algebraic Numbers	51
Unequal Sets	53
The Countable Set—The Smallest of the Infinite Sets	56
Uncountable Sets	57
The Census That Never Took Place	58
The Uncountability of the Continuum	61
The Existence of Transcendental Numbers	63
Long and Short Line Segments Have Equally Many Points	64
Segment and Square	66
Somehow One Problem Does Not Work Out	69
Is There a Set of Largest Cardinality?	71
The Arithmetic of the Infinite	73
Infinite Exponents	76
On the Ordering of Numbers	78
Completely Ordered Sets	80
The Enigmatic Axiom	82
Two Apples from One	84

#### 4. Remarkable Functions and Curves, or a Stroll through a Mathematical Art Museum

How the Notion of Function Developed	86
The Genie Escapes from the Bottle	91
Wet Points	93
The Devil's Staircase	97
A Prickly Curve	99
A Closed Curve of Infinite Length	104
A Mathematical Carpet	107
Euclid Does Not Rely on Euclid	111
Are Rigorous Definitions Needed?	112
A Curve Is the Path of a Moving Point	114
The Theorem Is Obvious, but the Proof Is Not	118
A Curve Passing through All the Points of a Square	120

Everything Had Come Unstrung	122
How to Make a Statue	124
Continua	126
Cantor Curves	128
Can the Area of a Curve Be Different from Zero?	129
Domains without Area	133
Some Surprising Examples	135
Domains and Boundaries	137
The Great Irrigation Project	139
A "Nondissertable" Subject	141
The Inductive Definition of Dimension	144
The Article Is to Be Printed, Not Reviewed!	146
Conclusion	149
Exercises and Examples	150