

REVIEWS

The Association for Symbolic Logic publishes analytical reviews of selected books and articles in the field of symbolic logic. The reviews were published in *The Journal of Symbolic Logic* from the founding of the JOURNAL in 1936 until the end of 1999. The Association moved the reviews to this BULLETIN, beginning in 2000.

The Reviews Section is edited by Alasdair Urquhart (Managing Editor), Steve Awodey, John Baldwin, Lev Beklemishev, Mirna Džamonja, David Evans, Erich Grädel, Denis Hirschfeldt, Roger Maddux, Luke Ong, Grigori Mints, Volker Peckhaus, and Sławomir Solecki. Authors and publishers are requested to send, for review, copies of books to *ASL*, Box 742, Vassar College, 124 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12604, USA.

In a review, a reference “JSL XLIII 148,” for example, refers either to the publication reviewed on page 148 of volume 43 of the JOURNAL, or to the review itself (which contains full bibliographical information for the reviewed publication). Analogously, a reference “BSL VII 376” refers to the review beginning on page 376 in volume 7 of this BULLETIN, or to the publication there reviewed. “JSL LV 347” refers to one of the reviews or one of the publications reviewed or listed on page 347 of volume 55 of the JOURNAL, with reliance on the context to show which one is meant. The reference “JSL LIII 318(3)” is to the third item on page 318 of volume 53 of the JOURNAL, that is, to van Heijenoort’s *Frege and vagueness*, and “JSL LX 684(8)” refers to the eighth item on page 684 of volume 60 of the JOURNAL, that is, to Tarski’s *Truth and proof*.

References such as 495 or 280I are to entries so numbered in *A bibliography of symbolic logic* (the JOURNAL, vol. 1, pp. 121–218).

MARY TILES. *The philosophy of set theory, an historical introduction to Cantor’s paradise*. Courier Dover Publications, 2004. xiii + 239 pp.

In the preface to this book, the author reveals that she was motivated by the experience of attempting to teach undergraduate courses and seminars in philosophy of mathematics to audiences containing both philosophers and mathematicians. She found that there was a lack of material which was both not too philosophically technical for the typical mathematician (with a little exposure to philosophy) and not too mathematically technical for the typical philosopher (with a little exposure to mathematics).

In the introduction, she tells us that the main question she will investigate is the question as to whether Cantor “discovered” or “invented” the world of transfinite set theory. This is a good question since it leads directly to obviously interesting questions about the nature of mathematical objects in general and about the role of the actual infinite in mathematics. She suggests in particular that a careful consideration of Cantor’s Continuum Hypothesis can serve as a focus for such an investigation.

The reviewer, when first approaching this book, had just taught an undergraduate special topics course in philosophy of mathematics, which he had managed by preparing lecture notes just ahead of the students. The issues of mathematical ontology and of actual infinity had been central in this course, and the Continuum Hypothesis had even made an appearance. The reviewer read this book with the idea that it might serve as a textbook for future versions of this special topics course.