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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, Grigori Mints, Luke Ong, 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 49***5*** or 280***I*** are to entries so numbered in *A bibliography of symbolic logic* (the JOURNAL, vol. 1, pp. 121–218).

LARRY WOS and GAIL W. PIEPER. ***A fascinating country in the world of computing—your guide to automated reasoning.*** World Scientific, Singapore, New Jersey, London, Hong Kong, 1999, 608 pp.

Larry Wos invented the term Automated Reasoning (henceforth, just AR) for what used to be called "(Mechanical) Theorem Proving." The present volume is a survey of where the area stood just before the turn of the millennium; clearly Wos was its principal author, with valuable assistance from Pieper.

"Tarski used to torment his graduate students with that problem!" So Urquhart reflected (in conversation) about the Robbins problem, disposed of electronically by methods akin to those investigated in this book. "It is the sort of problem," he continued, "for which one *wants* a computer—lots of messy cases, with irksome details to keep track of."

Be that as it may, the success of William McCune (one of the heroes of the book) and his Argonne (and other) colleagues in knocking off Robbins is *not* to be sneezed at. It was, at the time, worth a write-up in the NY Times. Like the vanquishing of former World Chess Champion Kasparov at the hands (or rather the circuits) of the CMU–IBM program Deep Blue, Robbins was one more triumph for the emerging powers of Computerdom against the limited rationality of humankind.

Or was it? In the book in focus, Wos and his co-author Pieper go to considerable lengths to insist that AR programs are *assistants* to human beings, doing mathematics and other respectable human stuff. The program on which the book concentrates is McCune's OTTER,

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