

John Burgess,
Fixing Frege,
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REVIEW

IGNACIO ANGELELLI

This volume is divided into three main chapters: 1) *Frege, Russell, and after*; 2) *Predicative theories*; 3) *Impredicative theories*. There follows an appendix with ten *Tables* (abridged overviews of various complex topics, such as “Fregean Categories in Adjudkiewicz-Bar Hillel notation”, “Axiomatizations of Frege’s set-theory”, etc.). More than ten pages of *Notes* and a substantial bibliography complete the volume¹.

The one fundamental issue on which the entire book hinges is the contradiction discovered by Russell (1902) in the logical basis of Frege’s system for the foundations of arithmetic, and the various ways of removing the inconsistency, or “fixing Frege”, that have been proposed in the past one hundred years. (I would like to point out, as something not mentioned in Burgess’s volume, that not everybody has been scared by the antinomies. Asenjo, in *Logic of antinomies*, says that there are three ways of looking at antinomies: as undesirable anomalies, harmless abnormalities, useful logical entities; the first section of Asenjo’s *Antinomicity*, is titled “A positive view of antinomies”).

After some preliminary observations (sections 1-4) my main discussion is devoted to the role allegedly played by “abstracts” in the task of fixing Frege (section 5). My conclusion is briefly summarized in section (6).

¹A few misprints have been detected. On p. 20, line 6 from the bottom: “principle” should be replaced by “principal”. On p. 81, line 4 from the bottom: a “the” should be deleted. On p. 231, note 34, “Crisipin” should be replaced by “Crispin”. On pp. 21, 43, and Index the name “Weiner” should be replaced by “Wiener”.