

Gaisi Takeuti

Memoirs of a Proof Theorist: Gödel and other Logicians

Singapore: World Scientific Publishing, 2003

xviii + 135 pp. ISBN 9812382798

and

John W. Dawson, Jr.

Logical Dilemmas: The Life and Work of Kurt Gödel

Wellesley, Massachusetts: A.K. Peters, 1997

xiv + 361 pp. ISBN 1568810253

DOUBLE REVIEW

THOMAS DRUCKER

The year 2006 has seen a wealth of material devoted to the memory of Kurt Gödel, the logician, the centenary of whose birth it is. In fact, it may already have seen a wealth of articles starting off with some variation on the previous sentence. To the best of this reviewer's knowledge, it has not yet seen a plurality of articles with the above second sentence, but he is prepared to be undeceived.

It is appropriate to look back at a couple of books that have been largely devoted to Gödel, his career, and his mathematical contributions. Of the two considered here, the first listed above will receive more protracted consideration, despite its brevity, as the more recent to reach an English-speaking audience. The second volume has already achieved the status of a biographical classic and serves as a contrast to the other.

Gaisi Takeuti is an eminent logician, whose texts on set theory adorn the shelves of many mathematicians. This book, however, is put together in rather an eccentric fashion and does not give the reader the best opportunity to appreciate his views. It is a collection of articles, almost all previously published in Japanese, and translated here by Mariko Yasugi and Nicholas Passell. The translators inform the reader in their preface that their intention is to try to preserve the stylistic features of the original 'even at the cost of some awkwardness'. For a non-Japanese speaking reader, however, this attempt is likely to end up creating confusion as to what the author was trying to say. Whether