BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by ANDY LIU

The Lighter Side of Mathematics,
edited by Richard K. Guy and Robert E. Woodrow,
Mathematical Association of America, Washington DC,
reviewed by Murray S. Klamkin, University of Alberta.

This book is the proceedings of the Eugene Strens Memorial Conference
on Recreational Mathematics and its History held at the University of Calgary
in August 1986 to celebrate the founding of the Strens Collection which is now
the most complete library of recreational mathematics in the world.

I had been invited to attend this conference but unfortunately had a
previous commitment. To make up for missing this conference, the next best
ting was reviewing this proceedings book which on doing so made me realize
what I had missed, for example, some very interesting talks plus getting
together with the leading practitioners of recreational mathematics, some of
whom were long time colleagues.

One does not normally include a list of contents in a book review, but by
doing so, it will give the reader a good indication of the wealth of recreational
material here. So if you have any interest in recreational mathematics, this
is a book for you. And even if you do not have such an interest, reading this
book may give you one.

Contents

Preface
The Strens Collection
Eugene Louis Charles Marie Strens
Part 1: Tiling & Coloring
Frieze Patterns, Triangulated Polygons and Dichromatic Symmetry,
H. S. M. Coxeter & J. F. Rigby
Is Engel’s Enigma a Cubelike Puzzle? J. A. Eidswick
Metamorphoses of Polygons, Branko Grünbaum
SquaRecurves, E-Tours, Eddies, and Frenzies:
Basic Families of Peano Curves on the Square Grid,
Douglas M. McKenna
Fun with Tessellations, John F. Rigby
Escher: A Mathematician in Spite of Himself, D. Schattschneider
Escheresch, Athelstan Spilhaus
The Road Coloring Problem, Daniel Ullman
Fourteen Proofs of a Result About Tiling a Rectangle, Stan Wagon
Tiling $\mathbb{R}^n$ with Circles and Disks, J. B. Wilker
Part 2: Games & Puzzles
Introduction to Blockbusting and Domineering, Elwyn Berlekamp 137
A Generating Function for the Distribution of the Scores of all Possible Bowling Games,
  Curtis N. Cooper & Robert E. Kennedy 149
Is the Mean Bowling Score Awful?
  Curtis N. Cooper & Robert E. Kennedy 155
Recreation and Depth in Combinatorial Games, Aviezri Fraenkel 159
Recreational Games Displays
  Combinatorial Games, Aviezri S. Fraenkel 176
  Combinatorial Toys, Kathy Jones 195
Rubik's Cube — application or illumination of group theory?
  Mogens Esrom Larsen 202
Golomb's Twelve Pentomino Problems, Andy Liu 206
A New Take-Away Game, Jim Propp 212
Confessions of a Puzzlesmith, Michael Stueben 222
Puzzles Old & New: Some Historical Notes, Jerry Slocum 229

Part 3: People & Pursuits
The Marvelous Arbelos, Leon Bankoff 247
Cluster Pairs of an n-Dimensional Cube of Edge Length Two,
  I. Z. Bouwer & W. W. Chernoff 254
The Ancient English Art of Change Ringing, Kenneth J. Falconer 261
The Strong Law of Small Numbers, Richard K. Guy 265
Match Sticks in the Plane, Heiko Harborth 281
Misunderstanding My Mazy Mazes May Make Me Miserable,
  Mogens Esrom Larsen 289
Henry Ernest Dudeney: Britain's Greatest Puzzlist, Angela Newing 294
From Recreational to Foundational Mathematics, Victor Pambuccian 302
Alphamagic Squares, Lee C. F. Sallows 305
Alphamagic Squares: Part II, Lee C. F. Sallows 326
The Utility of Recreational Mathematics, David Singmaster 340
The Development of Recreational Mathematics in Bulgaria,
  Jordan Stoyanov 346
V − E + F = 2, Herbert Taylor 353
Tracking Titanics, Samuel Yates 355

List of Conference Participants 363

Postscript:
There is a typographical error in Andy Liu's article on page 206. The number of tetrominoes is five and not four. This is corrected in the reprint of this article as Appendix C in the new edition of Golomb's "Polyominoes".