

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by ANDY LIU

Cien Problemas de Matemáticas: Combinatoria, Álgebra, Geometría, One Hundred Mathematics Problems: Combinatorics, Algebra, Geometry by Francisco Bellot Rosado and María Ascensión López Chamorro, published by Instituto de Ciencias de la Educación, Universidad de Valladolid, ISBN 84-7762-405-4, 1994, softcover, 146+ pages.
reviewed by **María Falk de Losada**.

There are very few problem-solving books written in Spanish and even fewer good problem-solving books written in other languages and translated into Spanish. One notable exception has been several Russian books published in Spanish by MIR. However, Francisco Bellot Rosado and María Ascensión López Chamorro have recently addressed that need with their book *Cien Problemas de Matemáticas: Combinatoria, Álgebra y Geometría* and they have selected their problems from several important sources. From the IMO, the OME (Spanish Mathematics Olympiad) and the OIM (Olimpiada Iberoamericana de Matemáticas) there are both problems that have appeared and also problems that were proposed but unused. From *Mathesis* and *Gazeta Matematica* we find many classical problems that every interested problem-solver should know. From several other competitions and journals there is a wide-ranging selection of problems. These were, in general, unavailable to the Spanish-speaking student previously.

Many of the solutions come from the authors themselves, while others are those given by Spanish participants in the IMO, OIM and still others come from a variety of sources. It is a truism that it is important for students working in the area of problem solving to develop confidence in themselves and their own abilities. For students from countries that do not have a time-honoured tradition in mathematics competitions and serious problem-solving, as is true in many Spanish-speaking countries, having access to solutions given by their own fellow students brings the possibility of success closer and helps to build such confidence.
