

. TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PARAGRAPHS
I. INTRODUCTION	
II. NUMERAL SYMBOLS AND COMBINATIONS OF SYMBOLS . . .	1-99
Babylonians	1-15
Egyptians	16-26
Phoenicians and Syrians	27-28
Hebrews	29-31
Greeks	32-44
Early Arabs	45
Romans	46-61
Peruvian and North American Knot Records	62-65
Aztecs	66-67
Maya	68
Chinese and Japanese	69-73
Hindu-Arabic Numerals	74-99
Introduction	74-77
Principle of Local Value	78-80
Forms of Numerals	81-88
Freak Forms	89
Negative Numerals	90
Grouping of Digits in Numeration	91
The Spanish Calderón	92-93
The Portuguese Cifrão	94
Relative Size of Numerals in Tables	95
Fanciful Hypotheses on the Origin of Numeral Forms	96
A Sporadic Artificial System	97
General Remarks	98
Opinion of Laplace	99
III. SYMBOLS IN ARITHMETIC AND ALGEBRA (ELEMENTARY PART)	100
A. Groups of Symbols Used by Individual Writers	101
Greeks—Diophantus, Third Century A.D.	101-5
Hindu—Brahmagupta, Seventh Century	106-8
Hindu—The Bakhshālī Manuscript	109
Hindu—Bhāskara, Twelfth Century	110-14
Arabic—al-Khowārizmī, Ninth Century	115
Arabic—al-Karkhī, Eleventh Century	116
Byzantine—Michael Psellus, Eleventh Century	117
Arabic—Ibn Albanna, Thirteenth Century	118
Chinese—Chu Shih-Chieh, Fourteenth Century	119, 120

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PARAGRAPHS
Byzantine—Maximus Planudes, Fourteenth Century	121
Italian—Leonardo of Pisa, Thirteenth Century . . .	122
French—Nicole Oresme, Fourteenth Century . . .	123
Arabic—al-Qalasâdi, Fifteenth Century	124
German—Regiomontanus, Fifteenth Century . . .	125-27
Italian—Earliest Printed Arithmetic, 1478	128
French—Nicolas Chuquet, 1484	129-31
French—Estienne de la Roche, 1520	132
Italian—Pietro Borgi, 1484, 1488	133
Italian—Luca Pacioli, 1494, 1523	134-38
Italian—F. Ghaligai, 1521, 1548, 1552	139
Italian—H. Cardan, 1532, 1545, 1570	140, 141
Italian—Nicolo Tartaglia, 1506-60	142, 143
Italian—Rafaele Bombelli, 1572	144, 145
German—Johann Widman, 1489, 1526	146
Austrian—Grammateus, 1518, 1535	147
German—Christoff Rudolff, 1525	148, 149
Dutch—Gielis van der Hoecke, 1537	150
German—Michael Stifel, 1544, 1545, 1553	151-56
German—Nicolaus Copernicus, 1566	157
German—Johann Scheubel, 1545, 1551	158, 159
Maltese—Wil. Klebitius, 1565	160
German—Christophorus Clavius, 1608	161
Belgium—Simon Stevin, 1585	162, 163
Lorraine—Albert Girard, 1629	164
German-Spanish—Marco Aurel, 1552	165
Portuguese-Spanish—Pedro Nuñez, 1567	166
English—Robert Recorde, 1543(?), 1557	167-68
English—John Dee, 1570	169
English—Leonard and Thomas Digges, 1579	170
English—Thomas Masterson, 1592	171
French—Jacques Peletier, 1554	172
French—Jean Buteon, 1559	173
French—Guillaume Gosselin, 1577	174
French—Francis Vieta, 1591	176-78
Italian—Bonaventura Cavalieri, 1647	179
English—William Oughtred, 1631, 1632, 1657	180-87
English—Thomas Harriot, 1631	188
French—Pierre Hérigone, 1634, 1644	189
Scot-French—James Hume, 1635, 1636	190
French—René Descartes	191
English—Isaac Barrow	192
English—Richard Rawlinson, 1655-68	193
Swiss—Johann Heinrich Rahn	194

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ix

	PARAGRAPHS
English—John Wallis, 1655, 1657, 1685	195, 196
Extract from <i>Acta eruditorum</i> , Leipzig, 1708	197
Extract from <i>Miscellanea Berolinensia</i> , 1710 (Due to G. W. Leibniz)	198
Conclusions	199
B. Topical Survey of the Use of Notations	200-356
Signs of Addition and Subtraction	200-216
Early Symbols	200
Origin and Meaning of the Signs	201-3
Spread of the + and - Symbols	204
Shapes of the + Sign	205-7
Varieties of - Signs	208, 209
Symbols for "Plus or Minus"	210, 211
Certain Other Specialized Uses of + and -	212-14
Four Unusual Signs	215
Composition of Ratios	216
Signs of Multiplication	217-34
Early Symbols	217
Early Uses of the St. Andrew's Cross, but Not as the Symbol of Multiplication of Two Numbers	218-30
The Process of Two False Positions	219
Compound Proportions with Integers	220
Proportions Involving Fractions	221
Addition and Subtraction of Fractions	222
Division of Fractions	223
Casting Out the 9's, 7's, or 11's	225
Multiplication of Integers	226
Reducing Radicals to Radicals of the Same Order	227
Marking the Place for "Thousands"	228
Place of Multiplication Table above 5×5	229
The St. Andrew's Cross Used as a Symbol of Multi- plication	231
Unsuccessful Symbols for Multiplication	232
The Dot for Multiplication	233
The St. Andrew's Cross in Notation for Transfinite Ordinal Numbers	234
Signs of Division and Ratio	235-47
Early Symbols	235, 236
Rahn's Notation	237
Leibniz's Notations	238
Relative Position of Divisor and Dividend	241
Order of Operations in Terms Containing Both \div and \times	242
A Critical Estimate of : and \div as Symbols	243

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PARAGRAPHS
Notations for Geometric Ratio	244
Division in the Algebra of Complex Numbers	247
Signs of Proportion	248-59
Arithmetical and Geometrical Progression	248
Arithmetical Proportion	249
Geometrical Proportion	250
Oughtred's Notation	251
Struggle in England between Oughtred's and Wing's Notations before 1700	252
Struggle in England between Oughtred's and Wing's Notations during 1700-1750	253
Sporadic Notations	254
Oughtred's Notation on the European Continent	255
Slight Modifications of Oughtred's Notation	257
The Notation : : : in Europe and America	258
The Notation of Leibniz	259
Signs of Equality	260-70
Early Symbols	260
Recorde's Sign of Equality	261
Different Meanings of =	262
Competing Symbols	263
Descartes' Sign of Equality	264
Variations in the Form of Descartes' Symbol	265
Struggle for Supremacy	266
Variation in the Form of Recorde's Symbol	268
Variation in the Manner of Using It	269
Nearly Equal	270
Signs of Common Fractions	271-75
Early Forms	271
The Fractional Line	272
Special Symbols for Simple Fractions	274
The Solidus	275
Signs of Decimal Fractions	276-89
Stevin's Notation	276
Other Notations Used before 1617	278
Did Pitiscus Use the Decimal Point?	279
Decimal Comma and Point of Napier	282
Seventeenth-Century Notations Used after 1617	283
Eighteenth-Century Discard of Clumsy Notations	285
Nineteenth Century : Different Positions for Point and for Comma	286
Signs for Repeating Decimals	289
Signs of Powers	290-315
General Remarks	290

TABLE OF CONTENTS

xi

	PARAGRAPHS
Double Significance of R and l	291
Facsimiles of Symbols in Manuscripts	293
Two General Plans for Marking Powers	294
Early Symbolisms: Abbreviative Plan, Index Plan	295
Notations Applied Only to an Unknown Quantity, the Base Being Omitted	296
Notations Applied to Any Quantity, the Base Being Designated	297
Descartes' Notation of 1637	298
Did Stampioen Arrive at Descartes' Notation Inde- pendently?	299
Notations Used by Descartes before 1637	300
Use of Hérigone's Notation after 1637	301
Later Use of Hume's Notation of 1636	302
Other Exponential Notations Suggested after 1637	303
Spread of Descartes' Notation	307
Negative, Fractional, and Literal Exponents	308
Imaginary Exponents	309
Notation for Principal Values	312
Complicated Exponents	313
D. F. Gregory's $(+)^r$	314
Conclusions	315
Signs for Roots	316-38
Early Forms, General Statement	316, 317
The Sign \mathcal{R} , First Appearance	318
Sixteenth-Century Use of \mathcal{R}	319
Seventeenth-Century Use of \mathcal{R}	321
The Sign l	322
Napier's Line Symbolism	323
The Sign $\sqrt{\quad}$	324-38
Origin of $\sqrt{\quad}$	324
Spread of the $\sqrt{\quad}$	327
Rudolff's Signs outside of Germany	328
Stevin's Numeral Root-Indices	329
Rudolff and Stifel's Aggregation Signs	332
Descartes' Union of Radical Sign and Vinculum	333
Other Signs of Aggregation of Terms	334
Redundancy in the Use of Aggregation Signs	335
Peculiar Dutch Symbolism	336
Principal Root-Values	337
Recommendation of the U.S. National Committee	338
Signs for Unknown Numbers	339-41
Early Forms	339

	PARAGRAPHS
Crossed Numerals Representing Powers of Unknowns	340
Descartes' z, y, x	340
Spread of Descartes' Signs	341
Signs of Aggregation	342-56
Introduction	342
Aggregation Expressed by Letters	343
Aggregation Expressed by Horizontal Bars or Vinculums	344
Aggregation Expressed by Dots	348
Aggregation Expressed by Commas	349
Aggregation Expressed by Parentheses	350
Early Occurrence of Parentheses	351
Terms in an Aggregate Placed in a Vertical Column	353
Marking Binomial Coefficients	354
Special Uses of Parentheses	355
A Star to Mark the Absence of Terms	356
 IV. SYMBOLS IN GEOMETRY (ELEMENTARY PART)	 357-85
A. Ordinary Elementary Geometry	357
Early Use of Pictographs	357
Signs for Angles	360
Signs for "Perpendicular"	364
Signs for Triangle, Square, Rectangle, Parallelogram	365
The Square as an Operator	366
Sign for Circle	367
Signs for Parallel Lines	368
Signs for Equal and Parallel	369
Signs for Arcs of Circles	370
Other Pictographs	371
Signs for Similarity and Congruence	372
The Sign \simeq for Equivalence	375
Lettering of Geometric Figures	376
Sign for Spherical Excess	380
Symbols in the Statement of Theorems	381
Signs for Incommensurables	382
Unusual Ideographs in Elementary Geometry	383
Algebraic Symbols in Elementary Geometry	384
B. Past Struggles between Symbolists and Rhetoricians in Elementary Geometry	385