



Fibonacci's De Practica Geometrie [

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Springer New York,
2008

Monografía

Leonardo da Pisa, perhaps better known as Fibonacci (ca. 1170 - ca. 1240), selected the most useful parts of Greco-Arabic geometry for the book known as *De practica geometrie*. Beginning with the definitions and constructions found early on in Euclid's *Elements*, Fibonacci instructed his reader how to compute with Pisan units of measure, find square and cube roots, determine dimensions of both rectilinear and curved surfaces and solids, work with tables for indirect measurement, and perhaps finally fire the imagination of builders with analyses of pentagons and decagons. His work exceeded what readers would expect for the topic. Practical Geometry is the name of the craft for medieval landmeasurers, otherwise known as surveyors in modern times. Fibonacci wrote *De practica geometrie* for these artisans, a fitting complement to *Liber abbaci*. He had been at work on the geometry project for some time when a friend encouraged him to complete the task, which he did, going beyond the merely practical, as he remarked, "Some parts are presented according to geometric demonstrations, other parts in dimensions after a lay fashion, with which they wish to engage according to the more common practice." This translation offers a reconstruction of *De practica geometrie* as the author judges Fibonacci wrote it. In order to appreciate what Fibonacci created, the author considers his command of Arabic, his schooling, and the resources available to him. To these are added the authors own views on translation and remarks about early Renaissance Italian translations. A bibliography of primary and secondary resources follows the translation, completed by an index of names and special words

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Título: Fibonacci's De Practica Geometrie Recurso electrónico] edited by Barnabas Hughes

Editorial: New York, NY Springer New York 2008

Descripción física: digital

Tipo Audiovisual: Mathematics Geometry Mathematics_\$xHistory Mathematics History of Mathematics Geometry

Mención de serie: Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences

Documento fuente: Springer eBooks

Contenido: Preface -- Background -- Prologue and Introduction of De Practica Geometrie -- Commentary -- Text -- Areas of Rectangular Fields -- Commentary -- Text -- Roots of Numbers -- Commentary -- Text -- Measuring Fields -- Commentary -- Text -- Division of Fields -- Commentary -- Text -- Cube Roots -- Commentary -- Text --

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Restricciones de acceso: Acceso restringido a miembros de la UGR

ISBN: 9780387729312

Entidades: SpringerLink (Online service)

Enlace a formato físico adicional: Printed edition 9780387729305

Punto acceso adicional serie-Título: Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences

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