



Springer

1st
edition

2008, XVI, 336 p.

Printed book

Hardcover

Printed book

Hardcover

ISBN 978-1-4020-8447-8

\$ 279,99

Available

Discount group

Professional Books (2)

Product category

Monograph

Series

Archimedes

Other renditions

Softcover

ISBN 978-90-481-7884-1

History : History of Science

Hon, Giora, Goldstein, Bernard R., University of Haifa Dept. Philosophy, Haifa, Israel

From Summetria to Symmetry: The Making of a Revolutionary Scientific Concept

- Symmetry is a key concept in modern science
- Its history has been distorted for various reasons
- A critical account of the history of the concept sheds light on the dynamics of scientific change and the role of concepts in theory formation
- The transition from the aesthetic concept of symmetry to its scientific usage is analyzed for the first time
- Legendre's pivotal role has not been noted at all in the secondary literature

Many literary critics seem to think that an hypothesis about obscure and remote questions of history can be refuted by a simple demand for the production of more evidence than in fact exists. The demand is as easy to make as it is impossible to satisfy. But the true test of an hypothesis, if it cannot be shown to conflict with known truths, is the number of facts that it correlates and explains. Francis M. Cornford [1914] 1934, 220. It was in the autumn of 1997 that the research project leading to this publication began. One of us [GH], while a visiting fellow at the Center for Philosophy of Science (University of Pittsburgh), gave a talk entitled, "Proportions and Identity: The Aesthetic Aspect of Symmetry". The presentation focused on a confusion surrounding the concept of symmetry: it exhibits unity, yet it is often claimed to reveal a form of beauty, namely, harmony, which requires a variety of elements. In the audience was the co-author of this book [BRG] who responded with enthusiasm, seeking to extend the discussion of this issue to historical sources in earlier periods.

Order online at springer.com/booksellers**Springer Nature Customer Service Center LLC**

233 Spring Street

New York, NY 10013

USA

T: +1-800-SPRINGER NATURE

(777-4643) or 212-460-1500

customerservice@springernature.com

ISBN 978-1-4020-8447-8 / BIC: PDX / SPRINGER NATURE: SC731000

Prices and other details are subject to change without notice. All errors and omissions excepted. Americas: Tax will be added where applicable. Canadian residents please add PST, QST or GST. Please add \$5.00 for shipping one book and \$ 1.00 for each additional book. Outside the US and Canada add \$ 10.00 for first book, \$5.00 for each additional book. If an order cannot be fulfilled within 90 days, payment will be refunded upon request. Prices are payable in US currency or its equivalent.