

Contents

Preface	ix
Contents	xi
Table of illustrations	xiii
Abbreviations, basic references and notations	xvii

CHAPTER I. PROTOHISTORY

§I: Introduction, p. 1; §II: Primes and factoring, p. 4; §III: Perfect numbers, p. 6; §IV: First degree problems, p. 6; §V: Pythagorean triangles, p. 7; §VI: Sums of two squares, p. 10; §VII: Fibonacci and the *Liber Quadratorum*, p. 12; §VIII: Early work on Pell's equation, p. 14; §IX: Pell's equation: Archimedes and the Indians, p. 17; §X: Diophantus and diophantine equations, p. 24; §XI: Diophantus and sums of squares, p. 29; §XII: Diophantus's resurgence: Viète and Bachet, p. 31.

CHAPTER II. FERMAT AND HIS CORRESPONDENTS

§I: Biographical, p. 37; §II: Binomial coefficients, p. 46; §III: Proofs vs. "induction", p. 49; §IV: Perfect numbers and Fermat's theorem, p. 51; §V: Early gropings, p. 59; §VI: First attempts on quadratic residues, p. 61; §VII: The prime divisors of sums of two squares, p. 63; §VIII: Sums of two squares, p. 66; §IX: Numbers of representations by sums of two squares, p. 69; §X: Infinite descent and the equation $x^4 - y^4 = z^2$, p. 75; §XI: The problems of Fermat's maturity, p. 79; §XII: "Elementary" quadratic forms, p. 83; §XIII: Pell's equation, p. 92; §XIV: Indeterminate equations of degree 2, p. 100; §XV: The ascent for equations of genus 1, p. 103; §XVI: More on the descent, p. 112; §XVII: Conclusion, p. 118. Appendix I: Euclidean quadratic fields, p. 125; Appendix II: Curves of genus 1 in projective spaces, p. 130; Appendix III: Fermat's "double equations" as space quartics, p. 135;

Appendix IV: The descent and Mordell's theorem, p. 140; Appendix V: The equation $y^2 = x^3 - 2x$, p. 150.

CHAPTER III: EULER

§I: Scientific life in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth century, p. 159; §II: Euler's life, p. 162; §III: Euler and Goldbach, p. 169; §IV: Euler's discovery of number-theory, p. 172; §V: *Dramatis personae*, p. 176; §VI: The multiplicative group modulo N , p. 189; §VII: "Real" vs. "imaginary", p. 201; §VIII: The missing quadratic reciprocity law, p. 204; §IX: Binary quadratic forms, p. 210; §X: The search for large primes, p. 219; §XI: Sums of four squares, p. 226; §XII: Square roots and continued fractions, p. 229; §XIII: Diophantine equations of degree 2, p. 233; §XIV: More diophantine equations, p. 239; §XV: Elliptic integrals and the addition theorem, p. 242; §XVI: Elliptic curves as diophantine equations, p. 252; §XVII: The summation formula and Σn^{-s} , p. 256; §XVIII: Euler and the zeta-function, p. 261; §XIX: The trigonometric functions, p. 267; §XX: The functional equation for the zeta-function, p. 272; §XXI: *Partitio numerorum* and modular functions, p. 276; §XXII: Conclusion, p. 283. Appendix I: The quadratic reciprocity law, p. 287; Appendix II: An elementary proof for sums of squares, p. 292; Appendix III: The addition theorem for elliptic curves, p. 296.

CHAPTER IV: AN AGE OF TRANSITION: LAGRANGE AND LEGENDRE

§I: Lagrange's life, p. 309; §II: Lagrange and number theory, p. 314; §III: Indeterminate equations, p. 316; §IV: Lagrange's theory of binary quadratic forms, p. 318; §V: Legendre's life, p. 322; §VI: Legendre's arithmetical work, p. 326. Appendix I: Hasse's principle for ternary quadratic forms, p. 339; Appendix II: A proof of Legendre's on positive binary quadratic forms, p. 346; Appendix III: A proof of Lagrange's on indefinite binary quadratic forms, p. 350.

Additional bibliography and references	361
Index nominum	365
Index rerum	372