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*"Enlight. Sym.: A Short Hist. of Math. Nota. and Its Hidden Powers" (J. Mazur) Book Review – Demir, A.*

➔ ***Book Review – NS***

# "Enlightening Symbols: A Short History of Mathematical Notation and Its Hidden Powers"
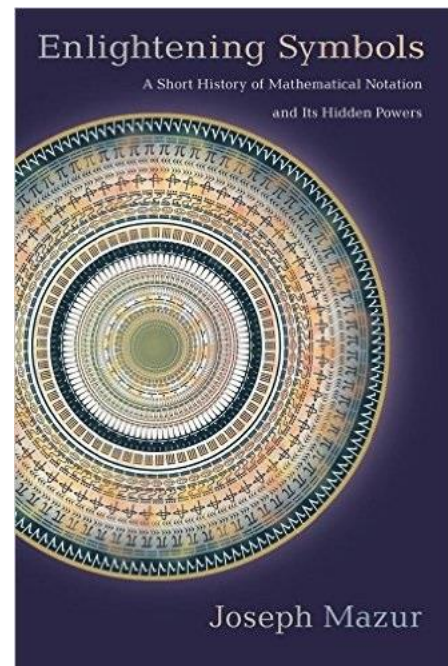## (J. Mazur)

**Ahmet Demir**
*Usak University,*
*Karahalli Vocational School, Turkey*
*ahmet.demir@usak.edu.tr*

It is clear that Mathematics is all around us. It finds its meaning with different forms in even behaviors of living organisms and dynamical events occured in the nature. It is also important that there is no field of modern life that is not related to Mathematics and essential approaches that can be considered under this scientific field. So, it has attracted humandkind's interest always and opened different doors to a better form of future. In this context, it can be stated that contribution of Mathematics to all fields of the modern life and so us is one certain thing that will not change.

When we examine the literature of Mathmematics, we can see that there is a remarkable effort in searching the history of Mathematics and enabling the audience to understand more about how Mathematics has reacherd to its current state and how it has affected modern life, destiny of the humankind and developments within different fields. From this perspective, it is an important approach to discuss about history of Mathematics to learn and understand more about its background and the future supported by it.

"Enlightening Symbols: A Short History of Mathematical Notation and Its Hidden Powers" is a powerful reference book written by Joseph Mazur and published by Princeton University Press, in 2014. Because of its popularity, it has reached to 4th edition, which can be called as a 'reprint edition' as published in 2016. Briefly, the book focuses on the mathematical notation system and enables readers to have idea about its historical background. As general, Mazur discusses about how mathematical system and the symbols have evolved in time towards current state of this scientific field and while discussing about it, he provides information about effects of this evolution to different fields and our thinking style. It is clear that this book has the ability to open readers' mind about how even a small part of big world can change the whole life and the history.

Generally, the book consists of a total of three chapters written in detail to discuss about historical flow of mathematical symbols – notation system. In this sense, the chapters included in the book can be explained briefly as follows:

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The first chapter of the book focuses on historical way of numerals and examines it by starting from ancient numerical systems to developments towards near future of the humankind.

Second chapter introduces the history by taking an important concept of Mathematics: Algebra into consideration.

The last chapter of the book is based on a more discussion oriented content by enabling readers to think about effects of mathematical symbols – notation system to humankind's life and the way of the world.

## REFERENCES

Mazur, J. (2014). Enlightening Symbols: A Short History of Mathematical Notation and Its Hidden Powers. (4th – Reprint Edition in 2016). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

**Details regarding to the book:**

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