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Eli MAOR. — ***e: the story of a number***. — Un vol. broché, 15,5×23,5, de xiv, 227 p. — ISBN 0-691-05854-7. — Prix: US\$ 14.95. — Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1998.

The interest earned on a bank account, the arrangement of seeds in a sunflower, and the shape of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis are all intimately connected with the mysterious number e . In this informal and engaging history, Eli Maor portrays the curious characters and the elegant mathematics that lie behind the number. Designed for a reader with only a modest background in mathematics, this biography of e brings out that number's central importance in mathematics and illuminates a golden era in the age of science.

Richard A. MOLLIN. — **Fundamental number theory with applications**. — Discrete mathematics and its applications. — Un vol. relié, 16×24, de xii, 439 p. — ISBN 0-8493-3987-1. — Prix: DM 135.00. — CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, distributed by Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 1998.

This title combines elementary number theory with algebraic number theory and applications such as those found in cryptology. Beginning with arithmetic of the rational integers and proceeding to an introduction of algebraic number theory via quadratic orders, this text reveals intriguing new applications of number theory. The text provides all of the material essential for an introduction to the fundamentals of number theory: presentation of applications to computer science and algebraic number theory via quadratics, applications to cryptography, solutions to odd-numbered problems, new factoring and primality testing algorithms.

Corps et polynômes

V.V. ISHKHANOV, B.B. LUR'E, D.K. FADDEEV. — **The embedding problem in Galois theory**. — Translations of mathematical monographs, vol. 165. — Un vol. relié, 18,5×26, de xi, 182 p. — ISBN 0-8218-4592-6. — Prix: £65.00. — American Mathematical Society, Providence R.I., distributed by Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1998.

Embedding theory was a common topic of Faddeev's lecture courses at St. Petersburg University. This book is based on these lectures and contains the main results on the embedding problem, which belong for the most part to the schools of Faddeev and Shafarevich. Chapter 1: Preliminary information about the embedding problem. — Chapter 2: The compatibility condition. — Chapter 3: The embedding problem with Abelian kernel. — Chapter 4: The embedding problem for local fields. — Chapter 5: The embedding problem with non-Abelian kernel for algebraic number fields.

Géométrie algébrique

Robert BIX. — **Conics and cubics: a concrete introduction to algebraic curves**. — Undergraduate texts in mathematics. — Un vol. relié, 16×24, de x, 289 p. — ISBN 0-387-98401-1. — Prix: SFr. 89.50. — Springer, New York, 1998.

Conics and cubics is an accessible introduction to algebraic curves. Its focus on curves of degree at most three keeps results tangible and proofs transparent. Theorems follow naturally from high school algebra and two key ideas, homogeneous coordinates and intersection multiplicities. By classifying irreducible cubics over the real numbers and proving that their points form Abelian groups, the book gives readers easy access to the study of elliptic curves. It includes a simple proof of Bézout's theorem on the number of intersections of two curves.