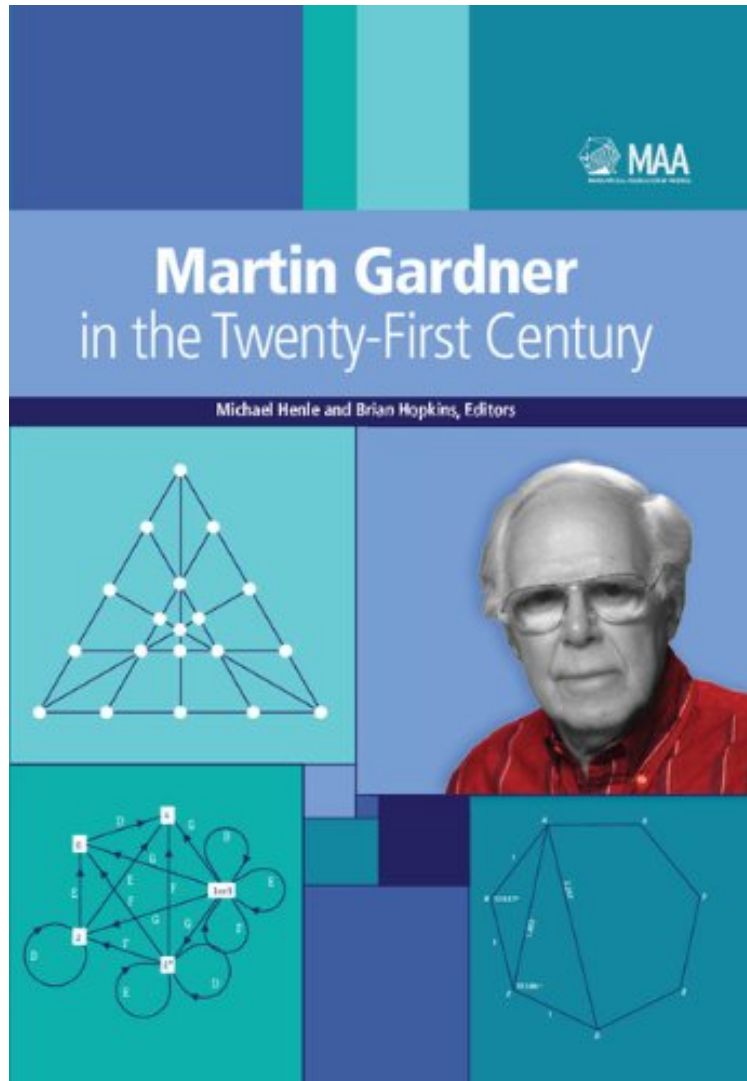


(Mobile book) Martin Gardner in the Twenty-First Century (MAA Problem Books)

## Martin Gardner in the Twenty-First Century (MAA Problem Books)

*From Mathematical Association of America*  
*\*Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



 Download

 Read Online

#2486075 in Books 2012-12-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.96 x .59 x 6.971, .0 #File Name: 0883859130350 pages | File size: 43.Mb

**From Mathematical Association of America : Martin Gardner in the Twenty-First Century (MAA Problem Books)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Martin Gardner in the Twenty-First Century (MAA Problem Books):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. good for the math people but not for Gardner's original ...By donald cascio Interesting articles by interesting math figures but yet not satisfying. Gardner wrote (especially early in his career) for the average person. This book reflects a more thoughtful approach, good for the math people but not for

Garner's original audience.

Martin Gardner enormously expanded the field of recreational mathematics with the Mathematical Games columns he wrote for Scientific American for over 25 years and the more than 70 books he published. He also had a long relationship with the Mathematical Association of America, publishing articles in the MAA journals right up to his death in 2010. This book collects articles Gardner wrote for the MAA in the twenty-first century, together with other articles the MAA published from 1999 to 2012 that spring from and comment on his work. Martin Gardner's interests spanned geometry, number theory, graph theory, and probability, always communicated with engaging exposition often including games and puzzles. Eight works by Gardner himself, published between 1999 and 2010, are collected here and represent the breadth of his work, including his short fiction and lifelong interest in debunking pseudoscience. The remaining 33 chapters were written in response to Gardner's work and include several articles addressing open questions he posed. They come from The American Mathematical Monthly, Mathematics Magazine, The College Mathematics Journal, and Math Horizons and demonstrate how Gardner's influence continues beyond his columns for Scientific American. Although he took no mathematics in college, Martin Gardner inspired many mathematicians, professional and amateur, and his work was informed by frequent correspondence with other mathematics aficionados, both famous and unknown. He was even the basis for a character in a popular novel; his review of that work in included here. This book is a tribute to the deep and lasting impact of this prolific and brilliant writer. It is for anyone who, like Martin Gardner, loves mathematics.

One of Martin Gardner's strengths was his wide-ranging interests: magic, mathematics, puzzles, pseudoscience and many other topics. While the articles in this collection naturally all fit under the general heading of "mathematics" they do a good job of reflecting the wide range of interests Gardner had even in this world. There is a section dedicated to "Geometry" which includes articles about "Number Theory and Graph Theory" including one about how arithmetic would work if we didn't know how to "carry" and another discussing a game theoretic approach to the Four Color Theorem. One section contains five articles on "Flexagons and Catalan Numbers" and there is a section entitled "Making Things Fit," which includes articles about L-trominos, polyominoes, squaring the plane, magic hexagrams, and knight's tours. The section on "Further Puzzles and Games" includes topics with such intriguing names as Cups and Downs, Congo Bongo, Bulgarian Solitaire, and RATWYT. The section on "Cards and Probability" includes an article Gardner wrote about modeling various mathematical phenomena using playing cards and another article which purports to "determine the likelihood that the author's students were underwhelmed" by a magic trick. There are also articles dealing with variations on well-known problems such as the Monty Hall Problem, the Secretary Problem, and the famous property of Lake Wobegon that all children are above average. A final section collects papers dealing with "Other Aspects of Martin Gardner," including a book review Gardner wrote of the (in this reviewer's opinion) very fun novel PopCo by Scarlett Thomas. It also includes the last piece Gardner ever submitted to the MAA, a short story entitled "Superstrings and Thelma" that appeared in Math Horizons that touches on the question of whether string theory should count as pseudoscience...in a humorous way. Just as with Gardner's Mathematical Games columns, most of the articles in this volume are at a level that an undergraduate student could follow and enjoy, with a handful of articles at a higher level and a handful that would be accessible to bright middle school students. In short, there is something for just about everyone in this collection (especially if by "everyone" I mean "everyone who would read an MAA book review). At the same time, I imagine there are a few readers who will find every article in this book to their liking--for the life of me, I have never been able to understand the fascination many people have with hexaflexagons and despite some good writing this book did not convince me otherwise--but the joy of an anthology is the ability to skip around and only focus on the parts that are to one's liking. ...The articles in Martin Gardner in the Twenty-First Century do a good job of capturing the spirit of Gardner, and make for great reading. Is it the same thing as a new collection of Gardner articles? No, and if you go into it looking for that you will probably be disappointed, but if your tastes run in similar directions to Gardner's and you enjoy good recreational mathematics writing, you will certainly find something in this collection to your tastes. --Darren Glass, MAA

Michael Henle is a professor of mathematics at Oberlin College. He is the author of several books including "Which Numbers are Real?" published by the MAA in 2012. Trained as a functional analysis, he also writes on combinatorial subjects and geometry. He is serving as editor of The College Mathematics Journal through to 2013. Brian Hopkins is a professor of mathematics at Saint Peter's University in Jersey City, New Jersey. He won, with Robin Wilson, the 2005 George Polya Award, edited the 2008 MAA Notes volume Resources for Teaching Discrete Mathematics, and was given the 2011 MAA New Jersey Section Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. Much of his research stems from Bulgarian Solitaire, a topic popularized by Martin Gardner. Hopkins will be the editor of the College Mathematics Journal from 2014 to 2018.