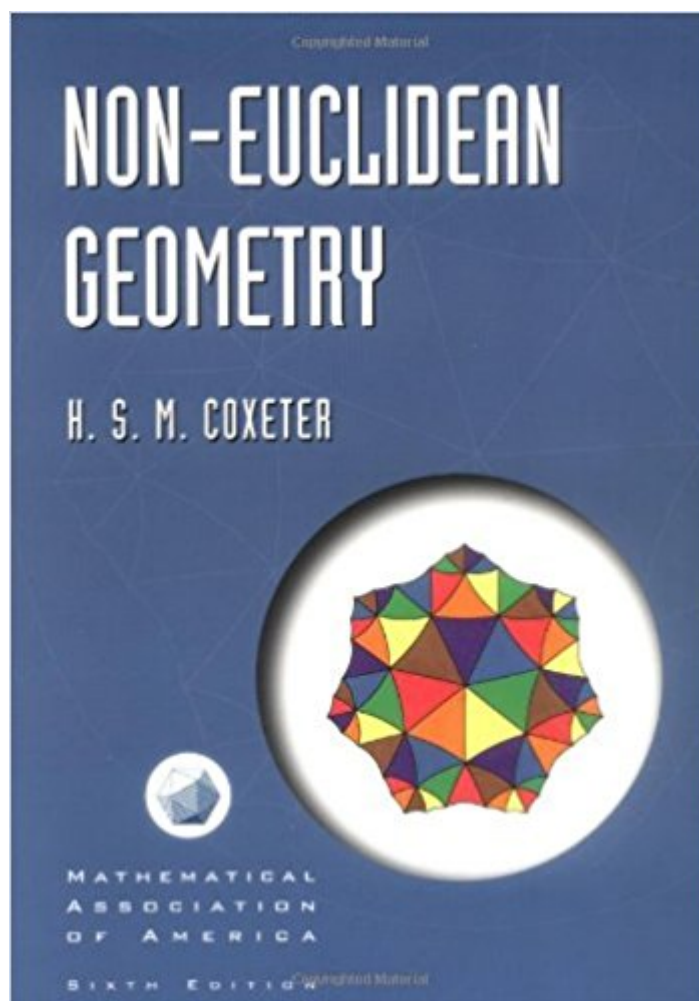


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Non-Euclidean Geometry (Mathematical Association Of America Textbooks)



Synopsis

This is a reissue of Professor Coxeter's classic text on non-Euclidean geometry. It begins with a historical introductory chapter, and then devotes three chapters to surveying real projective geometry, and three to elliptic geometry. After this the Euclidean and hyperbolic geometries are built up axiomatically as special cases of a more general 'descriptive geometry'. This is essential reading for anybody with an interest in geometry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Originally published in 1942, this book has lost none of its power in the last half century. It is a commentary on the recent demise of geometry in many curricula that 33 years elapsed between the publication of the fifth and sixth editions. Fortunately, like so many things in the world, trends in mathematics are cyclic, and one can hope that the geometric cycle is on the rise. We in mathematics owe so much to geometry. It is generally conceded that much of the origins of mathematics is due to the simple necessity of maintaining accurate plots in settlements. The only book from the ancient history of mathematics that all mathematicians have heard of is the *Elements* by Euclid. It is one of the most read books of all time, arguably the only book without a religious theme still in widespread use over 2000 years after the publication of the first edition. The geometry taught in high schools today is with only minor modifications found in the Euclidean classic. There are other reasons why geometry should occupy a special place in our hearts. Most of the principles

of the axiomatic method, the concept of the theorem and many of the techniques used in proofs were born and nurtured in the cradle of geometry. For many centuries, it was nearly an act of faith that all of geometry was Euclidean. That annoying fifth postulate seemed so out of place and yet it could not be made to go away. Many tried to remove it, but finally the Holmsean dictum of, "once you have eliminated the impossible, what is left, no matter how improbable, must be true", had to be admitted. There were in fact three geometries, all of which are of equal validity. The other two, elliptic and hyperbolic, are the main topics of this wonderful book.

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