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this volume contains a historically sensitive analysis and interpretation of apollonius of perga s conica one of the greatest works of hellenistic mathematics it provides a long overdue alternative to h g zeuthen s die lehre von den kogelschnitten im altertum

despite being generally unknown to the greats of contemporary mathematics apollonius s conics is said by chasles to contain the most interesting properties of conics written by one of the great pioneers of geometry this scarce text contains a comprehensive account of the mathematics of conics and as such constitutes a valuable addition to the libraries of serious mathematicians and historians alike apollonius of perga was a greek geometer and astronomer most famous for his work pertaining to conic sections and whose methodology and terminology influenced such intellectual giants as ptolemy johannes kepler francesco maurolico isaac newton and rene descartes this rare text is proudly republished here with an introductory biography of the author

apollonius s conics was one of the greatest works of advanced mathematics in antiquity the work comprised eight books of which four have come down to us in their original greek and three in arabic by the time the arabic

translations were produced the eighth book had already been lost in 1710 edmond halley then savilian professor of geometry at oxford produced an edition of the greek text of the conics of books i iv a translation into latin from the arabic versions of books v vii and a reconstruction of book viii the present work provides the first complete english translation of halley s reconstruction of book viii with supplementary notes on the text it also contains 1 an introduction discussing aspects of apollonius s conics 2 an investigation of edmond halley s understanding of the nature of his venture into ancient mathematics and 3 an appendices giving a brief account of apollonius s approach to conic sections and his mathematical techniques this book will be of interest to students and researchers interested in the history of ancient greek mathematics and mathematics in the early modern period

published in 1896 this translation of a classic work of greek geometry uses modern notation and includes considerable introductory material

a first english translation of book iv of apollonius s conics translated and annotated by michael n fried as a companion volume to our edition of conics books i iii conics iv deals with the way pairs of conic sections can intersect or touch each other in his introduction to the translation fried shows that this book has been misappraised by scholars too much inclined to see apollonius s work merely as a precursor to the analytic geometry of the seventeenth century he writes playfulness is one of the real delights of book iv one can see in this playfulness the artful way apollonius contends with the main challenge of the book the problem of how the opposite sections specifically meet other sections of a cone and other opposite sections how he gives this problem both foundation and context

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