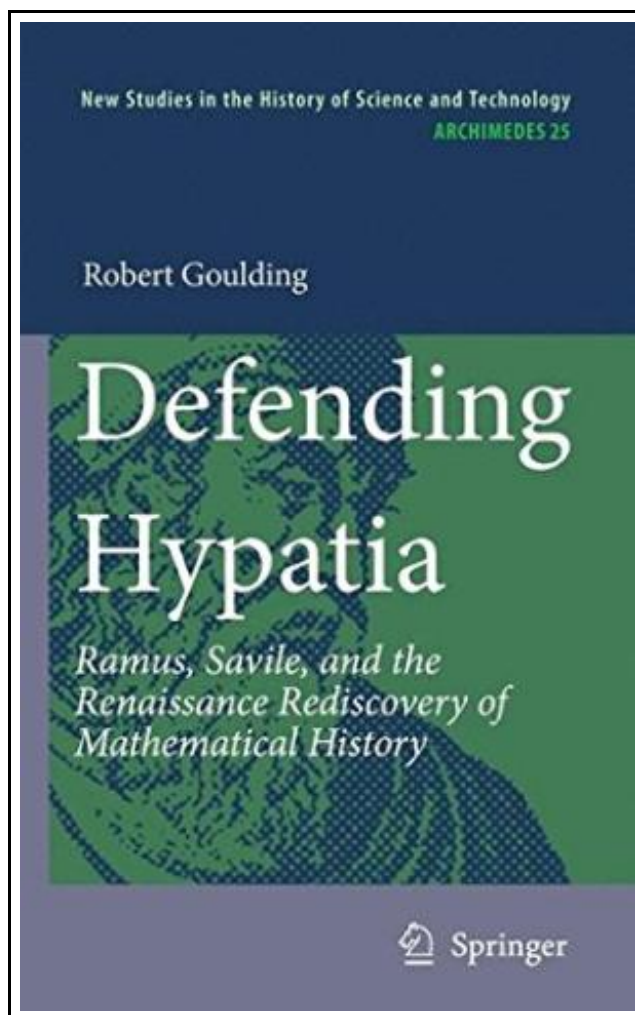


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Springer, Netherlands, 2010. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 2010 ed.. 236 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 1713, Pierre Remond de Montmort wrote to the mathematician Nicolas Bernoulli: It would be desirable if someone wanted to take the trouble to instruct how and in what order the discoveries in mathematics have come about. The histories of painting, of music, of medicine have been written. A good history of mathematics, especially of geometry, would be a much more interesting and useful work. Such a work, if done well, could be regarded to some extent as a history of the human mind, since it is in this science, more than in anything else, that man makes known that gift of intelligence that God has given him to rise above all other creatures. A half-century later, Jean-Etienne Montucla provided such an account in his *Histoire des mathématiques* (first printed in 1758, and reissued in a greatly expanded form 2 in 1799). Montucla's great work is generally acknowledged as the first genuine history of mathematics. According to modern historians, previous attempts at such a history had amounted to little more than collections of anecdotes, biographies or exhaustive bibliographies: jumbles of names, dates and titles, as one writer in the 3 *Dictionary of Scientific Biography* characterizes them. Montucla, in contrast, was thoroughly animated by the Enlightenment project expressed in de Montmort's letter. In his *Histoire* he set out to provide a philosophical history of the development of the human mind, as he himself described it.



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