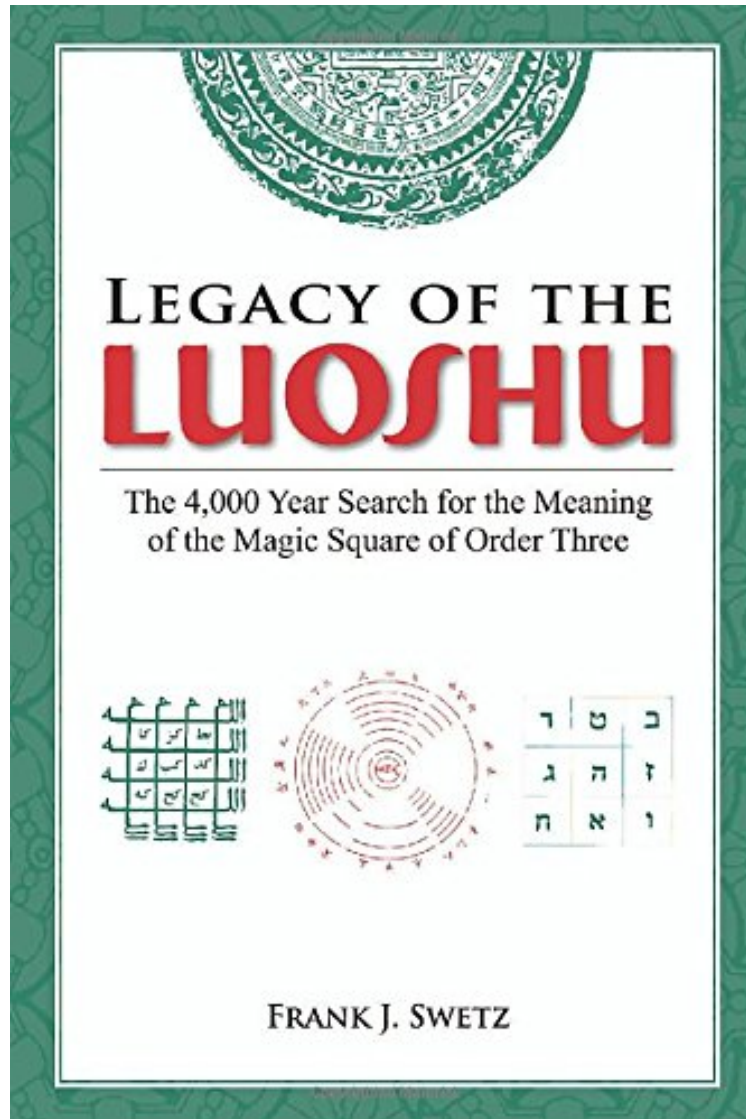


Legacy of the Luoshu: The 4,000 Year Search for the Meaning of the Magic Square of Order Three

Frank Swetz

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#3794217 in Books A K Peters/CRC Press 2008-06-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.10 x .70 x 6.10l, .95 #File Name: 1568814275228 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Frank Swetz : Legacy of the Luoshu: The 4,000 Year Search for the Meaning of the Magic Square of Order Three before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legacy of the Luoshu: The 4,000 Year Search for the Meaning of the Magic Square of Order Three:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Mysterious Chinese Magic SquareBy Fu XiThe Luoshu, or magic square with 9 boxes was of major importance in Chinese cosmology and was superimposed on maps and other

spatial systems. There is much about the Luoshu in English but this is the clearest treatment of the mathematics and so highly recommended for any interesting in this oddity of math and of Chinese philosophy. The author is a mathematician, not a sinologist so the information on the Chinese cultural aspects is limited and based on secondary sources, often out-dated ones. Still this is a good place to start. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Well Researched Yet Fun to Read By Lorraine Wilcox The Legacy of the Luoshu covers the story of the luoshu in China, both in legend and using historical sources. It tells how the luoshu and the magic square came to the attention of the West in the 17th century. The book explains uses of the luoshu in traditional Chinese culture, and also examines the use of the luoshu in other cultures, including Greece, India, Tibet, Japan, and the Islamic world. This book explains the mathematics of magic squares and how they are derived. The Legacy of the Luoshu is 214 pages with many diagrams and illustrations. This includes some beautiful drawings from old Chinese books. The author, Frank Swetz, is a professor of mathematics, who has written many other books, including others on Chinese mathematics. Even though he is a mathematician, his writing is very readable. The book has extensive footnotes, yet does not seem stuffy at all. In fact, you can feel the author's excitement as he discovers new details about the history of the luoshu. The author has a good grasp of Chinese culture, without any feeling of condescension. If you are curious about history and how things work, this is a wonderful book! The first four chapters were fascinating; I just wanted to lie in bed and read them. The later half of the book is a great resource to which I will refer, although the subjects were less focused on my specific areas of interest. If you enjoy learning about the intellectual and spiritual pursuits of classical Chinese culture, you will love this book. Overall, this is a very well researched book that is serious, yet fun to read. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Legacy of the Luoshu By James F. Kiernan Frank Swetz has done it again. In plain language he has given the best description of the luoshu magic square that I have read. The first half of his book is a detailed explanation of how the magic square is an outgrowth of Chinese philosophy. Swetz very carefully explains the connection of the square to the concepts of Yin/Yang, I Ching and Feng Shui. One can easily understand the cultural and mystical significance of the square and its relation to cosmology and astrology. The book contains excellent diagrams which are well documented and copious endnotes. The third quarter of the book gives a decent explanation of why the square was not first developed in Europe. The last quarter of the book discusses various miscellanea about the luoshu magic square. In all the Legacy of the Luoshu is a fascinating read and a must for anyone who would care to give a detailed explanation of its meaning.

A symbol of the Divine, a good luck charm, a cosmogram of the world order, a template for fengshui through the ages, the luoshu, or magic square of order three, has fascinated people of many different cultures. In this riveting account of cultural detective work, renowned mathematics educator, Frank J. Swetz relates how he uncovered the previously hidden history of the luoshu, from its Chinese origins, shrouded in legend, through its eventual association with Chinese fortunetelling, Daoism, and fengshui, to its incorporation into Islamic astrology and alchemy and its migration into Kabbalistic lore and other occult traditions of the West.

...an in-depth study of the diverse roles that the luoshu (a 3x3 'magic square' of numbers in a grid, where all rows, columns, and diagonals add up to the same sum) has played in metaphysical and spiritual traditions worldwide. From Chinese fortunetelling to Daoism, and fengshui, to Islamic astrology and Kabbalistic lore, the luoshu has perpetually reappeared throughout global human history. Extensively researched and illustrated with a handful of black-and-white photographs, Legacy of the Luoshu offers a unique glimpse into one aspect of the history of numerology, and is highly recommended especially for mysticism and metaphysical studies shelves. Wisconsin Bookwatch, October 2008 I found the book very interesting and a joy to read, not least because of the many diagrams and illustrations. What makes this book especially worthwhile, however, is the attention paid to the large variation in cultural meanings, both within China as well as in other countries ... I find in this book a beautiful uncovering of this part of the history of mathematics. Aldine Van Der Ham-Aaten, MAA s, January 2009 This fascinating book describes the luoshu (i.e. the magic square of order three) from Chinese origins and legends, its role in the development of Chinese mathematical thinking and teaching and its association with the rise of Chinese science and philosophy. It can be recommended to anybody interested in the properties of numbers, roots of number theory and the history of mathematics, as well as Chinese mathematical tradition. EMS Newsletter, March 2009 About the Author Frank J. Swetz, Professor Emeritus at the Pennsylvania State University, is one of America's best known mathematics educators. His interest in how society promotes mathematical knowledge led him to try to understand the cultural history of mathematics. He is co-founding editor of Convergence, an e-journal devoted to the History of Mathematics and its Teaching. He has authored over 300 articles and 20 books, including Was Pythagoras Chinese? An Examination of Right Triangle Theory in Ancient China (1977) and Capitalism and Arithmetic: The New Math of the Fifteenth Century (1987). He edited From Five Fingers to Infinity: A Journey through the History of Mathematics (1994).