

Abstract

Jacob Bernoulli's *Ars Conjectandi*, published posthumously in Latin in 1713 by the Thurneysen Brothers Press in Basel, is the founding document of mathematical probability. Edith Dudley Sylla here offers the first complete English translation of this monumental work.

Part I reprints and reworks Huygens' *On Reckoning in Games of Chance*. Part II offers a thorough treatment of the mathematics of combinations and permutations, including the numbers since known as "Bernoulli numbers." In Part III, Bernoulli solves more complicated problems of games of chance using that mathematics. In the final part, Bernoulli's crowning achievement in mathematical probability becomes manifest: he applies the mathematics of games of chance to the problems of epistemic probability in civil, moral, and economic matters, proving what we now know as the weak law of large numbers.

Sylla provides an extensive introduction and detailed translators notes. As supplemental texts she includes Bernoulli's "Letter to a Friend on Sets in Court Tennis" and "Thesis 32" of *Theses Logicae de conversione et oppositione enunciationum*.

Inhalt

*INTRODUCTION: Bernoulli's Life and Its Social Context - Bernoulli's Writings Related to *Ars Conjectandi* - Historical and Conceptual Background to Bernoulli's Approaches in *Ars Conjectandi*

THE ART OF CONJECTURING: Nicolaus Bernoulli, To the Reader - Translator's Commentary on *The Art of Conjecturing* - Letter to a Friend on Sets in Court Tennis - Bernoulli's Miscellaneous Thesis 32 from *Theses Logicae de conversione et oppositionibus enunciationum* (12 February 1686) - Translator's

Commentary on the Letter to a Friend and Miscellaneous Thesis 32

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