Euler and Modern Science

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Translated from Russian by Robert Burns

This book is an English translation of a collection of Russian articles presented at a conference held in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 1983 to mark the 200th anniversary of Euler's death. (The originals of two of the articles were actually in German.) The present English translation appears in 2007, exactly 300 years after Euler's birth.

We speak of the "Age of Euler." This is justified in particular by the great number of scientific terms and purely mathematical results connected with his name, well known to mathematicians and considered in part in this volume. What makes the collection remarkable, however, is the extensive treatment of Euler's contributions outside pure mathematics—to astronomy, celestial mechanics, ballistics, instrumentation and technology, physics, mechanics, hydrodynamics, elasticity, the calculus of variations, probability and statistics, and the mathematical theory of music. It is impressive that at the same time, Euler was also active in administration.

In addition to surveys of Euler's scientific contributions, one finds here much that is difficult to find elsewhere, such as detailed accounts of Euler's family life and the fortunes of his children and grandchildren. Readers otherwise well informed about Euler and his work will find much to enhance their appreciation of this extraordinary scientist and human being.

For significant and factual knowledge of Euler's contributions to science past and present, this book is easily the best available choice.