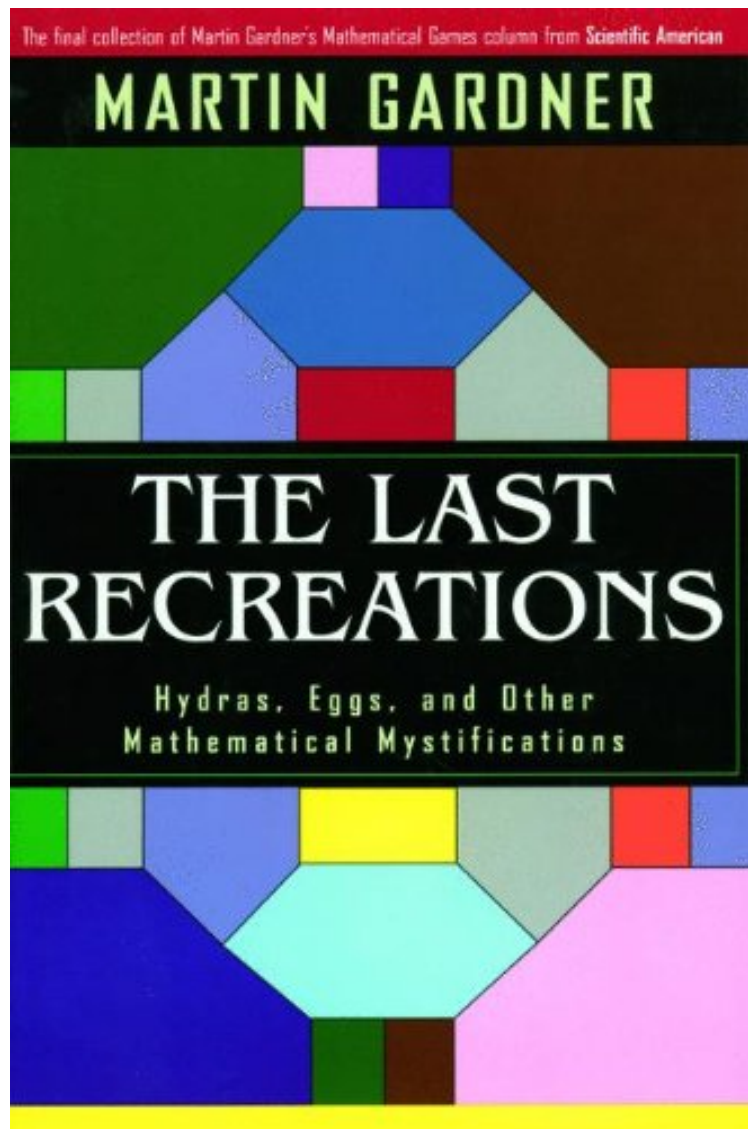


(Mobile book) The Last Recreations: Hydras, Eggs, and Other Mathematical Mystifications

The Last Recreations: Hydras, Eggs, and Other Mathematical Mystifications

Martin Gardner

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Martin Gardner : The Last Recreations: Hydras, Eggs, and Other Mathematical Mystifications before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Recreations: Hydras, Eggs, and Other Mathematical Mystifications:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not Quite RightBy Kenneth A. Perko, Jr. Not quite right in its account of the tabulation of 11-crossing knots, the book is an entertaining romp through the world of mathematics,

wholly satisfactory for recreational purposes. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not as interesting as his earlier books
By Giant Panda
I have long enjoyed reading Martin Gardner's books for their content of entertaining mathematical puzzles. Unfortunately, this volume is not as entertaining as the earlier books. The book takes thoroughness to the extreme, beating every issue to death and hence reading more like a textbook than a puzzle book. Further there is little diversity in topics - most chapters come from number theory or topology. Still you will find some interesting problems in this one: flatland, cannibals, taxicab geometry, checkers, the pigeonhole, and non-Euclidean geometry. Just don't plan to read everything or you will end up bogged down.
6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Whoah! Nostalgia!
By Piers Cawley
Reading this takes me back to time spent in my school's library poring over Gardner's columns in Scientific American. Several of the columns in this book I first read as a nerdy 14 year old and was staggered then (as I am now) by the elegance and beauty of the ideas they contained. Now I read it with a far greater appreciation of the problems and ideas expressed, but that doesn't compare with the sheer sense of wonder I experienced first time around.

Of all of Martin Gardner's writings, none gained him a wider audience or was more central to his reputation than his Mathematical Recreations column in Scientific American, which virtually defined the genre of popular mathematics writing for a generation. Flatland, Hydras and Eggs: Mathematical Mystifications will be the final collection of these columns, covering a period roughly from 1979 to Gardner's retirement as a regular columnist in 1986. The notable trend over Gardner's career is the increasing sophistication of the mathematics he has been able to translate into his famously lucid prose. These columns show him at the top of his form and are not to be missed by anyone with an interest in mathematics. As always in his published collections, Gardner includes letters received from mathematicians and other commenting on the ideas presented in the columns."

.com The Last Recreations collects the final works of Martin Gardner, the renowned "Mathematical Games" columnist for Scientific American. No prior knowledge of mathematics are necessary here; all will enjoy learning about topics ranging from Bulgarian solitaire to taxicab geometry, with experienced expositor Gardner as guide. Letters and updates concerning his column are also included in this book.
From Scientific American
Gardner, who conducted the immensely popular Mathematical Games department of this magazine from 1956 to 1981, presents here his 15th and final (he says) collection of those columns. There are 23 of them, culled from his last seven years of writing for the magazine. They deal with such engaging topics as "The Wonders of a Planiverse," "Bulgarian Solitaire and Other Seemingly Endless Tasks," "M-Pire Maps," "The Monster and Other Sporadic Groups" and "Taxicab Geometry." As in previous collections, Gardner brings his topics up-to-date and includes some of the letters from readers that his beguiling problems brought forth. As usual, these columns stand as examples of the finest mathematical exposition of all time. -- American Mathematical Monthly
Gardner has done more to stimulate an appreciation for, curiosity about, and discussion of mathematical ideas than any...mathematics professor. -- John Allen Paulos, author of Innumeracy and A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper
Martin Gardner is quite simply the most captivating, entertaining, and downright accessible mathematics writer the world has ever seen. -- Keith Devlin, author of Mathematics: The Science of Patterns and Goodbye, Descartes
The Last Recreations is the brilliant capstone to Martin Gardner's unrivalled career as the king of mathematical exposition. -- Ronald Graham, author of Concrete Mathematics