Contributions to the Founding of the Theory of Transfinite Numbers (Dover Books on Mathematics)

By Georg Cantor

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One of the greatest mathematical classics of all time, this work established a new field of mathematics which was to be of incalculable importance in topology, number theory, analysis, theory of functions, etc., as well as in the entire field of modern logic. It is rare that a theory of such fundamental mathematical importance is expressed so simply and clearly: the reader with a good grasp of college mathematics will be able to understand most of the basic ideas and many of the proofs.

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An 82-page introduction by the eminent mathematical historian Philip E. B. Jourdain first sketches the background of Cantor's theory, discussing the contributions of such predecessors as Veicrstrass, Cauchy, Dedekind, Dirichlet, Riemann, Fourier, and Hankel; it then traces the development of the theory by summarizing and analyzing Cantor's earlier work. A bibliographical note provides information on further investigations in the theory of transfinite numbers by Frege, Peano, Whitehead, Russell, etc.

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