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# Psychosis

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social settings, the level of concentration, the systems of rewards and all the other important aspects that make up the game. She includes an analysis of the American Indian game of Dish that is clearly rooted in the area of probability. This chapter also provides an excellent discussion of the Maori game of strategy known as Mu torere. Starting with a simpler version, Ascher leads the reader not only to an understanding of how to play Mu torere but also to a basic understanding of the mathematics connected with this game. A collection of river crossing puzzles from various cultures and the logic behind their solutions provide the final area of focus for this chapter.

The organization and modeling of space and time provides the content for Chapter 5. Because notions of time and space are so basic to the way we perceive, structure, and interpret our experiences, it is sometimes hard to understand or visualize the space-time ideas of other cultures. Nevertheless, Ascher successfully bridges this potential difficulty by her choice of examples. She includes apt discussions on the dynamic universe of the Navajo, the unique process and change dimension of the space-time concerns of the Iniut, and the navigational processes of the Caroline Islanders.

Spatial configuration is the basis of Chapter 6 which focuses particularly on symmetric strip decorations. Ascher includes an introductory discussion of isometries, symmetry, and symmetry groups and describes and utilizes a four character naming scheme for the possible strip patterns. (This scheme was developed by Russian crystallographers and is now accepted as the international standard.) A discussion of perfect coloring is also included in this chapter. Rafter patterns of the Maori and strip patterns found on Inca pottery provide beautiful and illustrative examples for the discussion of strip patterns in this chapter.

The final chapter of the book affords Marcia Ascher an opportunity to weave together the mathematical ideas and philosophies that are the basis for her book. She connects these ideas and issues to mathematics education, emphasizing the need for a redefinition of the boundaries of mathematics, and a revision of our philosophy and history of mathematics.

This outstanding book is a clearly written text that is well-suited for the college undergraduate level. The diverse collection of mathematical ideas in their cultural context provides a challenging yet very interesting array of mathematical topics. Ascher provides extensive notes with appropriate references which afford the reader additional sources for reading and scholarship. Marcia Ascher's book *Ethnomathematics: A Multicultural View of Mathematical Ideas* is a rare gem of a book. Read it!

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*Lee Goldstein*

Nooscopic insociability
Can drive the human intelligence of an incognizable numinosity,
Thenceforward, to the equations of the sphere,
While this programmatic transposition
Can also beget, through the unconscious, an incipient eidos
That splits the personal
And abets an insurgence of psychical energies
Unto the hallucinatory,
That is seeming or chaotic.

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nooscopic: pertaining to the examination of the mind