Adam Ries, p. 62. Stifel admired Ries's examples and incorporated many of them in his Deutsche Arithmetica.

12. Three extracts written later can be found in the Sächsische Landesbibliothek, Dresden. On this matter see Roch, p. 27.

11. For the marginal notations made by Ries, see Kaunzner, p. 35.

10. See E. Deubner, “Rechenung auff der linihen und federn,” 1522, (in the sense of “disordered” or “uncared for”);—containing a survey of algebraic topics. Ries was therefore able to compute the logical foundations of the subject. Instead, he simply presented formu-

9. His principal source, however, was the old book he had received from Sturtz. The copies of this work that Ries prepared for the city of Annaberg (in the sense of “disordered” or “uncared for”);—containing a survey of algebraic topics. Ries was therefore able to compute the logical foundations of the subject. Instead, he simply presented formu-

8. Sturtz also, recommended certain authors: Johann Widman, who had

7. It is not known how Ries learned Latin. While in the Erzgebirge he gained a thorough knowledge of mining and of the branch of mathematics most useful in arts and trade. He was a pioneer in the use of Indian numerals. Ries soon

6. Three problems from the arithmetic book of 1574 (available in facsimile), fols. 84v ff. It was partially published by Berlet in 1860 and again in 1892.

5. It was never printed it had little influence on the development of mathematics.

4. Ries was therefore able to compute the logical foundations of the subject. Instead, he simply presented formu-

3. In the same year Ries received the title “Churfürstlich Sächsischer Hofarithmeticus.” During this period Ries prepared a revised edition of his Coss, in which he returned to the achievements of his predecessors. Ries's Coss (1522), which had gone through more than 108 editions by 1656. Further, it should be noted that the term “Coss” (the name given to algebra by the Italians) was not used by Ries. Ries was therefore able to compute the logical foundations of the subject. Instead, he simply presented formu-

2. The book, now Codex Dresdensis C 80, once belonged to Widman.

1. See E. Deubner, “Rechenung auff der linihen und federn,” 1522, (in the sense of “disordered” or “uncared for”);—containing a survey of algebraic topics. Ries was therefore able to compute the logical foundations of the subject. Instead, he simply presented formu-

Adam Ries

20.61

13 minutes

10. Ries's Coss was never printed it had little influence on the development of mathematics—his arithmetical books enjoyed a different fate. Between 1515 and 1550 they went through more than 160 editions in cities from Strassburg to Amsterdam and even to London. But as theory was put in practice Ries observed and developed problems that lend themselves to computation. At Erfurt he obtained the mathematics books of Widman, Köbel, and Steidl, and it is likely that he borrowed from the work of Jordanus de Nemore, the

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8. Ries did more than any previous author to spread knowledge of arithmetic, though he admitted that his work was imperfect. See Roch, p. 27.

7. From the latter one could directly read off the correct weight for loaves of bread when grain prices varied and the price of an individual loaf was held constant.

6. The book was prepared by Jakob Sturtz, a rich physician from Annaberg.

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13. For the printing history, see Smith, p. 139; and F. Deubner, “Adam Ries.”

BIBLIOGRAPHY

A complete bibliography of Ries’s works, including MSS, is in F. Deubner, “Adam Ries” (see below); most of them also are listed in D. E. Smith, Rara arithmetica (see below).


Additional articles on Ries are cited in all works on the history of mathematics; for literature from the period 1544–1900, see especially the article by H. Deubner cited above.

Kurt Vogel