

PROJECTS

This department welcomes brief notes and article-length manuscripts. The former may include announcements of contemplated or ongoing projects, information on doctoral theses in progress or completed (writer, title, institution, supervisor, and available information on completion time), proposals and questions, and requests for assistance. Announcements of individual research projects, including theses are very important to avoid awkward and wasteful duplication of effort. Articles will ordinarily describe projected, in progress, or completed large-scale projects involving one or several scholars and should follow the same standards as other articles.

A RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPT IN PRACTICAL MATHEMATICS

Dr. Brunetto Piochi (Institute of Mathematics of the University of Siena, Italy) is transcribing Paolo dell'Abaco's *Trattato di tutta l'arte dell'abaco*, from the copy found in the National Library in Florence. Eight more copies of this treatise are known: six are in Italian Libraries, one in the United States--in the Plimpton Collection; and one in France--in the National Library in Paris (see Van Egmont, *Practical Mathematics in the Italian Renaissance*, p. 365, Florence, 1981). However, the copy in the Florentine Library seems to be the original, or at least the oldest, one.

The manuscript contains--in 188 charts--arithmetical tables and operations; business, recreational, and geometrical problems; astronomical tables and a dissertation on astrology.

Dr. Piochi, who expects to transcribe and edit the entire treatise, is preparing a paper containing a description of the manuscript, a commentary, and a collation of its different copies.