

Leonardo Pisano

Fibonacci's *Liber abaci*. A translation into modern English of Leonardo Pisano's Book of calculation. Transl. from the Latin and with an introduction, notes and bibliography by L. E. Sigler. Paperback ed. (English) [Zbl 1038.01025](#)
[Sources and Studies in the History of Mathematics and Physical Sciences](#). New York, NY: Springer (ISBN 0-387-40737-5/pbk). viii, 636 p. (2003).

In 1987, *L. E. Sigler* published his English translation of Leonardo of Pisa's book of squares [*L. P. Fibonacci*, The book of squares. Annotated translation into modern English by L. E. Sigler (Academic Press, Boston) (1987; [Zbl 0631.01034](#))]. Now he presents a complete English translation of Leonardo's "Liber abaci", of his "Book of calculation". Sigler rightly points out that the Latin title is misleading. It must not be translated as "Book of the Abacus". A "maestro d'abbaco" calculated directly with Hindu numerals without using the abacus.

Leonardo's book is a comprehensive textbook on arithmetic and algebra based upon Arabic knowledge and the theoretical foundation of Euclid's mathematics. The fifteen chapters deal with the Hindu number system, an algorithm for multiplication and addition, the subtraction of whole numbers, divisions of small numbers and simple fractions, mixed numbers, numbers with fractions, the value of merchandise, business negotiations, investments and profits of companies, alloying of monies, the method of false position, arithmetic series, roots, proportion and elementary geometric problems.

Reviewer: [Eberhard Knobloch \(Berlin\)](#)

MSC:

- [01A75](#) Collected or selected works; reprintings or translations of classics
- [01A35](#) History of mathematics in late antiquity and medieval Europe

Cited in **1** Review